

NURSING ECHOES.

We hope our readers will carefully read the Report of the Meeting of the General Nursing Council in this issue. The policy of its members is that the fullest publicity, consistent with discretion, shall be given to its work on behalf of the Nursing Profession. In return the Council looks for intelligent interest and sympathetic co-operation upon the part of the nurses.

We shall hope to hear soon that the Scottish and Irish Council meetings are thrown open to the press.

On the 17th inst. Her Majesty Queen Mary will lay the foundation stone of the new Nurses' Home at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. A red-letter day, indeed, for all Bart.'s people, and one patiently awaited by generations of nurses and Matrons. In the year 1886 we eagerly scanned draft plans, but came sadly to the conclusion that the space then available was useless for the purpose. The alternative was to wait for the sale of Christ's Hospital, and obtain land for the building. It is now many a year since the land was procured, and at last it is to be utilised. We hope everyone concerned will now get a push on and speedily finish the job.

The annual meeting of the Queen's Fund for the maintenance of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, held at 58, Victoria Street, on February 1st, was presided over by the Duke of Portland, K.G. The statement of accounts for 1920 was presented by Sir Harold Boulton, who alluded to the valuable help given by Her Majesty Queen Alexandra's Committee, which had again contributed £2,000 to the funds. Colonel Pixley, who seconded the adoption of the accounts explained that the Fund had been able to hand over £8,100 to the Queen's Institute, but this was only possible by the grant of £5,000 made by the Joint Finance Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and a legacy of £2,000. He described the outlook for 1921 as very grave.

The Duke of Portland appealed to the Committee to assist him in raising an additional £12,000 a year for the work of the Institute. This was unanimously agreed. We sincerely hope the Duke's appeal will be successful, for the cause which he advocates is worthy of all support.

A Public Meeting will be held in the Central Library Hall, Holloway Road, Islington, on Tuesday, February 15th, at 7.30 p.m., called

by the Constitutional Labour Party, to discuss "The Need of Organisation Amongst Nurses." The President, Mr. G. K. Naylor, J.P., will be in the chair, and the following are amongst the speakers:—Miss Maud MacCallum (General Secretary, Professional Union of Trained Nurses); Mrs. Paul (Chairman, Professional Union of Trained Nurses); Rev. Alan Hay (Secretary, National Clerical Union); Dr. E. A. Gregg, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Medico-Political Union); R. Cooper (National Union of Teachers); J. H. Todd (Chairman, Islington Constitutional Labour Movement).

The nurses employed at the Camberwell Infirmary have presented a petition to the Guardians, asking for a reduction in hours of duty.

At present the day staff are working 52½ hours a week, and the night staff 72 hours.

The matron has submitted a scheme by which the hours of the day nurses will be reduced to 48½ and the night nurses to 58½.

Extra accommodation will be required for them, and until this is found the Guardians have adjourned the question of reducing the nurses' hours.

The question of the provision of nursing treatment for insured persons arose at a meeting of the Sheffield Insurance Committee recently, on a letter from the Queen Victoria District Nursing Association, asking the Committee to consider the possibility of making a subscription in view of the serious position of the Association.

It was suggested that the expected surpluses to the credit of the approved societies might be devoted to the provision of nursing services, but as Mr. G. Wilkinson pointed out, the Committee had no say in the disposal of the funds.

Ultimately a special committee was elected to investigate the subject of nursing services for the community and report before the 2nd March.

At the twentieth annual meeting of the Bradford District Nursing Association, the Lord Mayor proposed that those owning motor cars should provide the vehicles for the use of the nurses on duty on Sunday morning, when there was no car service. If this were done much relief would be afforded.

The Manchester Royal Infirmary has a deficit of nearly £30,000 on the year's expenditure, which would have been £12,000 more but for the windfall from the National Relief Fund. An additional income of £12,000 will be re-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)