

### NURSING ECHOES.

Her Majesty the Queen laid the Foundation Stone of Queen Mary's Maternity Home, Upper Heath, Hampstead, on Wednesday last. We shall describe the interesting function next week. By request of the Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick attended the ceremony, in response to a courteous invitation from the Chairman and Executive Committee of the Home that a member of the Council should be present.

We reminded our readers on September 3rd that the Ministry of Labour had announced the closing date for the receipt of applications for training in some occupation, other than nursing, from nurses in receipt of a Disability Pension, who, by reason of any disablement due to war service are unable to return to their pre-war occupation, must reach the Controller, Women's Training Branch, Disabled Nurses, Ministry of Labour, St. Ermin's, Caxton Street, London, S.W.1, on or before October 31st, 1921.

May we advise such nurses, if possible, to get some insight into business, to learn to write a copperplate hand. The art of calligraphy is becoming a lost art, and in an office where accuracy is necessary, other than typewriting, this art is of the utmost value.

Miss Milne, of St. Thomas' Hospital, has recently gone to South Africa to act as Sister Tutor, and by a curious coincidence Miss Violet Hamilton, from the Johannesburg Hospital, set sail the same day for England to take the course at King's College for Women, after which she will return to Johannesburg under a three years' contract as Sister Tutor.

We learn that there are no openings for certificated masseuses in South Africa, as many South African nurses who were in England during the war trained in that work, and quite a number of them find they are unable to find posts now they have returned home.

We always think it a pity when clergymen interfere in matters which they do not understand, especially when, presumably through ignorance, they make statements which are both inaccurate and ill-natured. For instance, Canon Glossop (St. Albans) is reported to have said at Cambridge, in discussing Miss C. E. Todd's excellent Paper on "Poor Law Nurs-

ing," and in referring to the Syllabus framed by the General Nursing Council, that "Nurses in public institutions had captured the Council, on which Guardians had no representation." He then proceeded to make a number of suggestions on professional educational questions, which proves our contention that such matters should and must be dealt with by expert members of the nursing profession, and not by the laity, especially those who are irresponsible employers, such as Poor Law Guardians, and we use the word irresponsible in the sense that they are not personally responsible for the remuneration of the nursing staff, but merely as the trustees of the ratepayers.

We do not follow the good Canon *re* "nurses having captured the General Nursing Council." It is their *own* Council—their *own* Governing Body, and, like the Church, the Bar, the Medical or any other professional group, the Registered Nurses of the future claim the right to define the Constitution they agree to obey. Lay control of the Nursing Profession has brought it into sorry straits. Now we registered nurses are going to do our best to organise it, and raise it to the highest and most efficient standard possible, for the benefit of the whole community. The duty of churchmen is to bless and not attempt to boss our efforts.

*The National Asylum Workers' Magazine* for September has some very pertinent remarks on the management of St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton, and it accuses the Committee of harsh and unjust treatment of some of its employees, and also of charging relatives the personal and whole-time attention of nurses for imbecile patients, for whom they are not provided. *The Magazine* invites the Lunacy Board of Control to investigate its statements, and concludes with the following expression of opinion, with which we are in entire sympathy: "It is to be hoped that the public, sooner or later, will realise the necessity of abolishing private 'profit-making' in connection with the treatment and care of insane persons, and insist upon all mental institutions being brought under public ownership and control. By this means many of the existing abuses inseparable from private control of asylums would be automatically removed."

We have had more than one "scrap" with the authorities of such private "profit-making" institutions—where we were con-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)