

NURSING ECHOES.

Professor M. Adelaide Nutting, R.N., Teachers' College, New York, in passing through London this week, found time to visit the Headquarters of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales at 12, York Gate, and take tea there, on Wednesday afternoon.

On Thursday Miss Nutting, as a Guest of Honour, supported Miss Steuart Donaldson at the Dinner given to her upon her appointment as Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.

We shall refer further next week to the pleasure of showing to Professor Nutting the progress of Nursing Organisation in England and Wales, in which she has always taken a deep interest.

Miss Eleanor Barton, President of the Poor Law Matrons' Association, calls our attention to the injustice of depreciating nursing in Poor Law Infirmaries, in comparing it with nursing in voluntary hospitals. She writes:—

There are two trite sayings which are well worth considering; they are the following: "Comparisons are odious," and "Live and let live." One is specially reminded of them when reading of late speeches and also letters to the press which, while pleading for financial help to maintain the Voluntary Hospital system, strive to strengthen their appeal by decrying the Poor Law and all its works.

We all agree in revering the great Hospitals with their fine traditions, and must rejoice that successful efforts are being made to maintain in being the Voluntary Hospitals whether large or small, which all over the country are doing such wonderful work, but why need they be invidiously compared to the Infirmaries which are also doing useful and splendid work, even though they are supported by the rates?

Lord Knutsford in a letter this week to one of the Nursing Papers, says, "The standard of nursing in Poor Law Infirmaries (speaking generally) is below that in the Voluntary Hospitals," and adds, "there is hardly a matron in one of the latter who has not said to an unpromising probationer, 'You will not quite do here; I advise you to apply to a Poor Law Infirmary.'" It is assertions such as these which, if taken seriously, tend to do a grave injustice and to belittle a most honourable section of the nursing profession. Naturally there are varying standards in Infirmaries as there are in General Hospitals, but I, for one, feel inclined to challenge the assertion that the general standard which, I presume, includes that of teaching work and kindness, is lower in the one than the other, or that the Infirmaries could be staffed with the

failures from the Hospitals. The very fact that many of the Infirmary patients are of the poorest and most destitute class of the community calls for, and often commands, the best type of woman as probationer."

Miss Barton draws attention to the fact that under the rules of the General Nursing Council all nurses trained either in voluntary or Poor Law Hospitals, which conform to the Syllabus laid down by the Council for the training of nurses, so as to enable them to pass the State Examination for Registration, should in the future do away with invidious distinctions and comparisons between training-schools.

The quarterly meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association will be held on July 30th, at the Eustace Miles' Restaurant, Charing Cross.

It is widely advertised in the press that Lady Marjorie Dalrymple, sister of the Earl of Stair, is acting as a commercial traveller for the Moorland Suede Company in America. Why not, in these democratic days? But why should this titled saleswoman be depicted throughout the picture press wearing trained nurses' uniform? The nursing pose of titled amateurs had passed, we hoped, with the war, and it cannot "help any," as they say in the States, in disposing of gloves, hats, skirts and coats. What a relief it will be when "Registered Nurses" have their uniform protected.

And this reminds us that after the holidays the G.N.C. must tackle the "registered" uniform question in earnest. We intend to propose a live exhibition, to be held in London where uniforms complete from hat or cap to boots and shoes can be on view. Imagine fair nurse mannikins parading in useful and becoming garb before a critical professional audience. Good firms might compete. It would really be the most practical way of choosing a "registered nurses'" uniform. Seeing is believing.

The late Miss Jane Delano, Director of the Department of Nursing of the American Red Cross, who was a very rich woman, left a legacy of 25,000 dollars and the royalties from the sale of text-books on Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick to be used for the support of public health nurses in rural districts. This important legacy has been considered at a recent meeting of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service, and it has been decided that the Nurses appointed will be known as

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)