

NURSING ECHOES.

We hope many members of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council will make a point of attending the meeting on Saturday, April 29th, at 431, Oxford Street, W., as very interesting and important business will be under discussion. An amended and extended Constitution will be considered, and the foundation laid, we hope, of a strong, uplifting Council, inspired with high ethical standards, to secure in the future freedom of action and conscience for Registered Nurses.

The Twenty-second Annual Meeting, and the Fourteenth Annual Dinner, of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' League is to be held in the Nurses' Home on Friday, May 5th. Dinner will be at 7 o'clock, and the Annual Meeting at 8 o'clock. Competitive Exhibitions of Photographs and Needlework will be held as usual, and they add much to the interest of the Annual Meeting. Prizes have been placed at the disposal of the judges, and awards will be made in the different Classes should entries be sufficient. Tickets for the Dinner, at the incredibly low price of 1s. each, may be obtained by members of the League from the Hon. Secretary, and applications should be made to her, at the Matron's Office at the Hospital, not later than Wednesday, May 3rd.

The Dinner of the Guy's League is such a pleasant and friendly function that we are impelled to wonder why it holds the field in this respect. So far as we know, no other League has an annual dinner, yet the Guy's League has, for fourteen years, afforded an admirable object lesson.

"Our Daughters' Future," discussed in the *Times*, has shown that Nursing as a Profession does not count. We quote "An Old Bart's Woman":—

"As an old and constant reader of *The Times*, and as a woman worker, I have been keenly interested in the correspondence respecting employment for girls. I notice that so far there has been no mention of nursing as a means of livelihood for educated women. This does not surprise me. Although I have been actively occupied in hospital work for the last 20 years, having been trained in the oldest London hospital, and having held various important posts in both London and provincial hospitals, I do not consider it suitable work for those young women who are well educated and wish to make a living wage. The reforming and physical energy involved is very great; the life is one of constant hardship and very harrowing, and the pecuniary return almost nil.

"This, of course, applies to what may be called the painful process of climbing to the top. Once there the line of vision changes at once, and the Matron's post is one of constant interest and full of scope; but it takes years to arrive. As a Matron one finds more and more, as years go on, that girls fight shy of nursing as a profession, and, alas! it is rapidly falling into the hands of a great majority made up of much poorer material, both socially and physically. It gives us pause, for these women will eventually be the heads of a vast number of women occupied through various sources in nursing. Will they, being of a class who hesitate not to attain a proper remuneration for their services, arrive at the really living wage which would have changed the nursing profession so greatly at this difficult period of living?"

"There is no question, and never has been, as to the best being qualified to be in charge of hospitals and kindred institutions, and it is a thousand pities that the allurements of these posts is weak with so many daughters."

Very heartfelt indeed is the regret everywhere expressed amongst the inhabitants of Mallow at the departure from amongst them of Miss Gillespie, who for nearly a quarter of a century as Jubilee nurse under the Mallow District Nursing Association has rendered such splendid service to the sick poor of the town, by whom she has been regarded with a warmth of affection which could not be expressed in words, and by whom she will long be remembered for her kindly interest in their welfare at all times, especially during times of sickness and trouble. How assiduously she has carried out her duties may be judged from the fact that the executive committee of the District Nursing Association has heard of her resignation with profound regret, and, as showing their appreciation of the noble work she has done in the homes of the poor when sickness and suffering and trouble called for her ministrations, the people of Mallow have decided to present her with a testimonial which would be worthy of the town and worthy of Nurse Gillespie and the cause to which she has devoted her life. It is not, therefore, surprising to hear that the fund is being subscribed to generously and promptly. Mr. William O'Brien, writing to the Testimonial Committee, said: "Her departure will be nothing short of a calamity for the poor of Mallow. In any other department of public service her labours for the sick and suffering for more than a quarter of a century would be rewarded with a generous pension."

It must indeed be a great joy to Miss Gillespie to find how her devotion to duty is appreciated.

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