

NURSING ECHOES.

We desire to remind our readers that applications for the post of District Superintendent for the Montreal Association of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, particulars concerning which appear on page i of our advertisement supplement, should be sent in to Mrs. Reford, c/o Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1, not later than May 8th. The appointment is an attractive one, affording scope for a woman of ability and executive capacity. The salary is equivalent to £468 in English money.

The public is still worrying in the *Times* what to do with sons and daughters. Why not let them "do" for themselves? A Mother writes:—

"I was extremely interested in the letter written by a late St. Bartholomew's nurse in *The Times* on the subject of 'Our Daughters' Careers.' Would that a Florence Nightingale would arise to champion the cause of the nurse as that great lady did that of the sick and wounded. My own daughter, educated at a public school, the child of a medical man, and possessed of a good brain, quick sympathy, and splendid health, chose to go as a nurse to one of our largest hospitals. The result is that half way through her training she is absolutely discouraged. The amount of menial work demanded, the long hours of continuous standing and scurrying hither and thither, the complete lack of social amenities, and the extremely poor prospects as regards pay and social status demand that a girl should possess the temperament of a martyr before she enters upon such a life of self-abnegation; a nun's is easy compared with a nurse's, because she does not have to slave as well as deny herself."

All this will continue until the nurses themselves combine to better conditions. At present they are the most spiritless class of workers in the country. Nothing has amazed us more than the ruthless attitude of autocracy assumed by the "combine" on the G.N.C. The bitter animus with which we and other members of the Council have been maligned and persecuted because we opposed the policy to depreciate the status of registered nurses, and deprive them of power in their own Council, is a disgrace to civilisation.

News comes from Florence that Miss Villiers is enjoying a lovely holiday in Italy, and well she deserves it after her strenuous year's work as Matron, and her conscientious performance of duty as a member of the General Nursing Council, where her vote has always been cast

in support of efficiency and in the best interests of the Nursing Profession. The gross insult offered to Miss Villiers, and through her to every Fever Nurse in the country, by removing her from the Standing Committee on Education and Examination, to make a place for a woman of social influence, would amaze nurses in any other country than this, where such persons arrogate to themselves the right to dictate to highly educated expert professional women, who earn an honourable living, and contribute to the nation's wealth and efficiency.

At a meeting of the Hastings Board of Guardians recently it was decided to refer to a Committee consideration of a suggestion by the Clerk that three nurses who had been appointed at the last meeting and had declined to take up the posts, should be required to pay a month's salary. It was suggested by Councillor Hembrey that most of the applications they received were merely "levers to get increases." We are of opinion that nurses should realise that a business contract is binding, and that it is not only a matter of business, but a matter of honour to take up an appointment when accepted.

At the close of an inquest at Manchester last week on a patient who died at the Crumpsall Institution after falling out of bed, a coroner's official reported that the nurse, who had given evidence in the case, refused to sign her statement. Nurse Shanahan, in extenuation, said she objected to the way in which the inspector had addressed her.

The Coroner, addressing the nurse, said: "I have been shocked by your behaviour today, and I saw you laughing with another nurse. I don't think you are fit to be a nurse if you behave in this manner, when an inquiry is being made into someone's death. In not signing your evidence and going away you have behaved very badly."

The nurse left the court after signing the depositions.

It seems almost impossible that a nurse should behave in the manner described, and bring down upon herself a well-merited rebuke from the coroner.

It is incredible that Miss George, the village nurse who went to care for the dying child of the landlady of the local inn at Wellow, near Bath, should have lost her appointment because tongues wagged so busily on the subject of her frequenting an undesirable place. Yet

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