

NURSING ECHOES.

For the season Lady Reading, wife of the Viceroy of India, has given Armsdell, one of the most charming bungalows on the Viceregal estate at Simla, for the use of the Minto Nurses' Association. The work of the Association, which provides a holiday home for nursing sisters at moderate terms, having been brought to her Excellency's notice, she learned that sisters were often unable to take the requisite leave from their trying work in the plains owing to the cost of accommodation in the hills.

This graceful act is the latest of a series of efforts made by her Excellency to improve the conditions of nursing and health in India.

In connection with the College of Nursing Annual Meetings, there will be, on Thursday, June 22nd, at 10.30 a.m., a conference of Sister-Tutors, to which all *bonâ-fide* teachers who are College members working on the General Nursing Council Syllabus are invited. Suggestions for discussion are asked, and should be sent in by May 24th to Miss Lane, Sister-Tutor, St. Mary's Hospital, W.2. A ticket of admission and copy of agenda will be sent later to all who notify to the above their intention of being present.

Presiding at a Nursing Federation meeting at Nottingham, the Duchess of Newcastle alluded to the fact that difficulty was experienced in finding candidates for work as nurses, more particularly in rural districts, and that at a time when so many young women were seeking employment. Not only was free training of candidates offered for one year, with free uniform and travelling expenses, but an allowance of £16 pocket money was also made. Yet, although it appeared incredible, candidates were lacking.

It does not appear incredible to us. We wonder if the Duchess of Newcastle, who is a great sportswoman, has ever heard of the Nurses' Registration Act? County Nursing Associations have for years been encouraging what is termed, quite illegally, the "Nurse Midwife"; and now that both Nurses and Midwives have legal status, and legal titles, by Acts of Parliament, it is time ladies of social eminence who patronise them should study nursing economics, and realise that working women should be encouraged to train thoroughly up to the legal standard, so that they may enjoy better conditions. The day is over when a

smattering of nursing tacked on to a short course of midwifery will satisfy the type of woman who should be encouraged to attend the sick and the lying-in woman. It is high time Society ceased meddling with professional standards.

The Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses has always maintained a very high standard of training, and has never encouraged placing women with a few months' training as district nurses, although certain Duchesses and other social magnates have run such Associations. Now we note that the Institute is making an effort to establish County Nursing Federations in Forfarshire and elsewhere, to provide highly qualified nurses throughout the counties, and are, we regret to see, being opposed by the County Council.

At a recent meeting held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar, Provost Marshall presided over an audience representative of the burgh and county authorities and Burgh and Rural District Nursing Associations. He was accompanied on the platform by the Lady Susan Gilmour, Hon. Secretary of the Jubilee Institute, and Miss White, Superintendent of the Institute in Scotland.

At a meeting of the County Council, held previously, however, when the question of appointing representatives to attend the meeting came up, Mr. Wm. Smith moved that the Council be not represented. He did not think that the Jubilee nurses would be suitable for the rural work, where they would be expected to undertake more than mere nursing services.

Eventually Dr. Sinclair was appointed to attend and state that the Council were not favourable to the proposal.

Dr. Sinclair said the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nursing Association had no rural nurses, and their scheme was to amalgamate burghs with the rural districts. The average cost of a Queen Victoria nurse was £220 to £250 per annum, whereas the ordinary rural nurse, such as they had at Glamis at present, cost £100. The total number of nurses required would be thirty-three, excluding the burgh of Arbroath, and the total cost of these nurses would be at least £6,000 per annum for the county area. Together with the management expenses and items of travelling, the whole thing would cost about £7,000. He thought it was up to the Insurance Committees to supply nurses to their members. The Scottish Board of Health re-

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