

NURSING ECHOES.

The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council will meet on Saturday, September 30th, at 431, Oxford Street, W. One item on the Agenda will be to consider the forthcoming election of Registered Nurses on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

The Army School of Hygiene has been established at Puckridge Hill, Aldershot, as a permanent centre of instruction for officers and other ranks.

Nothing ever came of our suggestion during the war that a section of Sanitary Sisters should be organised and attached to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Some day no doubt the War Office will realise the necessity for such a Service. Why should not a beginning be made in connection with the new Army School of Hygiene.

We advise our readers to procure, if possible, a copy of the Presidential Address of Sir Charles Sherrington on "Some Aspects of Animal Mechanism," given at the meeting of the British Association at Hull.

Psycho-analysis and the child, vitamins in food, and the marine origin of life were among the many subjects discussed at the meeting.

One sad aspect of nursing in some Poor Law Infirmaries which we have visited of late years is the system of keeping infants in bed. If sufficiently well, infants should be out and about, or at least out of bed. We have been struck with the sadness of these little prisoners, and, upon inquiry, are usually told that the nursing staff is too busy to act as nursemaids, which is the sort of attention the poor mites require. Isn't it possible to improve upon this prison system?

We are glad to note that Mrs. Andrews, Ministry of Health Inspector, in the course of her report upon her visit to the Keynsham Poor Law Institution, which was read at a recent meeting of the Guardians, said that the nurseries, both on the upper floor, were in good order. Alterations were under consideration, but before being put in hand it would be well to consider utilising a vacant room on the ground floor as day nursery. In her opinion, children in upstairs nurseries in Poor Law Institutions did not get out enough during uncertain weather. She felt no woman would spend her time in dragging six or eight children up and down steep stone steps to suit

the vagaries of this climate, whereas if on the ground floor the children could run in and out freely, and infants in cots could be out constantly.

The Clerk (Mr. C. Martin) said that since the visit of the Lady Inspector there had been a visit from a Medical Inspector of the Ministry of Health, and perhaps it would be well to leave further consideration of the matter until a report from that Inspector was received.

Mr. H. Edwards proposed that this course be taken.

The Chairman remarked that the recommendation that the children should not have to come down steep stairs was a good one, and Mr. Edwards agreed.

It was agreed that further consideration of the report should stand over until the Medical Inspector's report was received.

Thus we realise the value of the "outside eye," especially if it is a mother's eye, where children are concerned.

The Rochford Guardians have wisely decided to train their own nurses and to obtain recognition by the General Nursing Council of their hospital as a training-school. The Board realises that otherwise they will not be able, in the future, to obtain probationers. The Board, however, is in error in stating that compulsory registration is in force. The Act provides for a voluntary, not a compulsory, system; but there is little doubt that in a few years unregistered nurses will cease to rank as professional nurses, and will find great difficulty in obtaining well-paid and influential posts.

On October 16th, 17th, and 18th a conference convened by the National Clean Milk Society, Inc., will be held (by permission of the Corporation of the City of London) in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, E.C., under the presidency of Viscount Astor. This conference should be interesting to Public Health Nurses. Inquiries should be made to Miss H. M. Willans, Hon. Secretary, National Milk Conference, 3, Bedford Square, London, W.C. 1.

According to the *Lancet*, there exists in Vienna an institute, on the lines of our Central London District Association, supported by voluntary contributions, which supplies trained nurses and other assistance free of charge to sick persons who are unable to find accommodation in hospitals. This organisation was founded at a time when it was most difficult to obtain a bed in a hospital and many poor patients

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