

A WORD TO THE WELSH NURSES.

We advise the nurses in Wales to wake up, otherwise they will find themselves entirely unrepresented on the new General Nursing Council, to be elected in December. Nomination papers should be applied for at an early date or it will be too late. The terrible apathy of the Nursing Profession will thus have serious results for Welsh nurses.

A little article from the Medical Correspondent of the *Western Mail* draws attention to the need for better facilities for the training of nurses in Wales. This gentleman has evidently not grasped the fact that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, set up under the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, has power to organise the curriculum of training and examination for nurses in Wales, but what he writes is of interest. According to the *Western Mail* "there are at present about eight places in Wales where nurses can be trained—such as the hospitals and infirmaries of the big towns—but there is no co-ordination in the admission of candidates or their training, whilst the standard of the examination for the diploma varies with the whims of the examiners.

"Applicants for admission nowadays are not drawn from the class of young woman that one would like or from which they used to be drawn. Formerly well-educated girls from cultured homes used to take up nursing, but these days, unfortunately, many of the applicants come from homes where culture counts for very little, and 'education' is valued only for what can be made out of it.

"The doctor referred to does not speak Welsh, but he pointed out the difficulty which presents itself to many good girls brought up in Welsh homes who think in Welsh, and for this reason should be trained and examined by persons who know and understand the language.

"Together with this, one must remember that the majority of patients are Welsh, and need to be nursed by those who know their national characteristics.

"One has but to look round to realise that most, if not all the matrons of our training centres are English, or monoglot English speaking Britishers.

"There is a great need in Wales for Welsh-speaking nurses, especially in the industrial areas, where health visitors and school-nurses are in and out of the Welsh workers' homes, but unless something is done to raise the tone and standard of the nursing profession in Wales the people of the Principality are certain to suffer.

"We have in connection with the university a Board of Medicine which might—nay, ought to—move in the matter, but unless a demand is forthcoming such a move is not likely to be made.

"The Welsh University is expected to exercise an influence over the lives of the community, and along lines such as have been outlined an opportunity seems to be offered for it to bring its influence to bear for a very good purpose."

LEAGUE NEWS.

The *League News* of the St. Bartholomew's Hospital nurses, just to hand, is an excellent issue, but proves what a costly joy it is to issue a journal! However, the League has a surplus on the General Fund of over £100; in hand for the Nurses' Home Fund, £817 14s. 5d.; to the Reserve Fund, £150, and for its Benevolent Fund, £143; so it is in a very satisfactory financial condition.

The great loss the Hospital and Nursing School have sustained by the resignation of Miss H. M. Smith, Sister Martha (owing to a sad accident her hand became infected and disabled after twenty-four years' fine work) is notified. The Sisters presented her with a silver teapot, cream jug and sugar basin, as a token of their great esteem and good wishes.

Miss F. E. Cole (Sister Casualty) has been appointed Sister of Martha Ward.

To perpetuate the memory of the late Treasurer, Mark Ward has been renamed "Sandhurst"; the "Saints" are disappearing one by one—a pity in this ancient religious Foundation.

The retirement of Miss Ellen Birch, House Sister for so many years, who entered the service of the Hospital in 1882, is regretted in a witty little "Memo," signed E. B., from which we quote:—

In 1907 she became House Sister, whose duty it is, primarily, to engage and superintend the scrubbers and polishers of the Hospital, and, incidentally, other items connected with the Nursing Staff, which kept her in touch with the whole Hospital.

The scrubbers' verdict was that she was "strict, but just," and they loved her. She did many a good turn to individual members in sickness, &c., and on one occasion lent money to enable one to choose the fine, when given the "option"! (No—no details.)

As she toured the wards daily, she had a cheery word for the patients as well as the Nursing Staff, whilst keeping a "weather eye" on the crawling scrubber or polisher.

One of the items which fell to her share in connection with the Nursing Staff was associated with the biennial Examinations. She collected the instruments of torture, also the victims, cheered them on, and sent them into the torture-chamber, and ended by eating from their dainty trays the morsels which the torturers had not been able to devour; and I believe the Nurse thought her tray the best from which Miss Birch ate most!

Although retired, she is still to be seen frequently in the Hospital, as she lives by the tram-line between Barts's and Highgate, and after forty years' residence in the former place, it would take a bigger obstacle than "a 3d. all the way" to keep her from her Alma Mater.

When she left she was given a silver teapot by many old friends, and a silver cream-jug from the Nurses.

Several letters of interest are published from "Bart's" Nurses abroad—as they wander far afield.

A TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

Overheard in a Mental Hospital. Nurses chatting about need for organisation.

Lady Patient: "Nurses co-operate! I know them. They love to wallow. Let them wallow."

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