

NURSING ECHOES.

Please read our Editorial remarks on the Election of Nurse Representatives on the forthcoming General Nursing Councils.

During the war we congratulated Her Majesty Queen Mary—whose activities for the welfare of the nation were a splendid example of devoted service to us all—that she never courted cheap popularity by donning nursing uniform, like so many of her sister Queens.

No doubt the dear ladies were inspired by humanitarian motives, but we prefer them in more regal attire. Queen Marie of Roumania has had a special stamp designed and issued for the Coronation, on which she is presented as a nurse. It is not half as imposing as she appeared in her lovely crown of Transylvanian gold, which would have made a most artistic stamp, admired of all philatelists.

The Ministry of Labour has communicated with the Royal British Nurses' Association and other Nurses' Organisations, asking whether they desire to intervene and to be represented at the appeal lodged by St. Thomas's Hospital against the insurability of nurses before July 1st, 1922, under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. The Minister of Labour has decided that a Senior Staff Nurse at St. Thomas's Hospital was insurable up to that date, and the appeal is made on the main ground that the Senior Staff Nurse is employed in domestic service.

Having regard to the contention now raised by St. Thomas's Hospital, and to the views expressed at the inquiry held by the Ministry in January, 1921, that nurses in hospitals could not be classed as domestic servants, the Minister of Labour desires to know if Associations of Nurses would be willing to give evidence, either orally or by affidavit, on the question whether nurses in hospitals can or cannot be classed as domestic servants.

This is a most important question, and can be readily answered, thanks to the legal status bestowed on professional nurses under the Nurses' Registration Acts.

Professional Nurses are not domestic servants, and we hope their organisations will elect to give evidence as suggested, and to dissociate them from the ground of the appeal for exemption from St. Thomas's Hospital that they are employed in domestic service.

A great need for the care of private patients is the provision of Nursing Homes designed and built to meet their needs, and we con-

gratulate Miss E. Fulcher (late of Devonshire Street), trained at the London Hospital, on the Home built to her requirements at 56, 58, and 60, Hallam Street, Portland Place, W.1, which was opened on Wednesday, October 18th, by Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., who said that not only the needs of the patients, but of everyone else, including doctors and nurses, appeared to have been considered.

There is accommodation for about 28 patients, and with the exception of one ward, in which there are three beds, all the rooms are single. Grey is the predominating colour of the walls; beds and chairs are most comfortable, and the colour schemes of screens and cretonnes most harmonious. Each floor is self-contained, with inter-telephonic communication; it has its own diet and service kitchen, linen cupboards, soiled-linen shoot, bathroom. A lift connects each floor with the kitchen, and there is a larger lift on which patients can be conveyed to the operating theatres, of which there are two, and which are fitted with the latest appliances, and with a very powerful light, which can be moved about at will. We noticed that radiators are not taboo, as in some very up-to-date hospitals, where the heating appliances are inside the walls. In the present case the radiator can be swung right out and used for keeping blankets warm. There is plenty of cupboard room for brooms and brushes and other household requirements.

We have no doubt that sooner or later, we hope sooner, all the nursing staff will be Registered Nurses, as now that State Registration is in force this is undoubtedly a guarantee for which the medical profession and the public will ask.

Miss E. Abraham, Matron of the Cathedral Nursing Society for the Sick Poor, 48 Osborne Road, Newcastle, wishes to thank all who helped to make the recent sale of work so successful, including the patients, both former and present, many of whom collected money or made articles for the stalls. The sale realised £160, after all expenses were paid.

An Act is now in force for the Registration of Nurses in Prince Edward Island, Canada, under the title of the "Act Respecting the Profession of Nursing." Those registered may append to their names the letters "R.N." The expression "approved training school" means a school attached to, or operates in connection with, a hospital giving a general training in nursing extending for at least three years, containing at least fifty beds.

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