

## NURSING ECHOES.

Please read our back cover page.

Now that so many nurses who have the energy to insist upon being placed on the Parliamentary Register have votes, they naturally take much more interest in citizenship and its responsibilities than they did in the past, and we know of quite a number of elections in which they have taken a hand. In the future the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council intends to organise a School for Stateswomen, so that Registered Nurses may bring influence to bear on Nursing and Health questions in Parliament.

Unhappily we go to press on Wednesday, so that the result of the nurses' election campaigns in North-West St. Pancras, in St. George's, Westminster, and in Swansea cannot be announced till next week, but we hope their work will have helped to return Major Barnett to Parliament, where he has proved himself a most disinterested friend to our profession. Anyway, the experience in electioneering has been of very great value to the nurses who took part in it, and they have the satisfaction of knowing that they have done their duty as good citizens.

The general opinion is that the Victory Ball at the Albert Hall, promoted in the name of the Nation's Nurses, last week (of course, contrary to their wishes) was a frost so far as "quality" was concerned. Cinema stars and the plutocracy who made up the company were delighted to "help the poor nurses" by appearing in the most costly costumes, led by Lady Cowdray in a gown of rose and silver, which the press informed a breathless public "took three years to make," and which won the first prize! It would.

How grateful we poor old paupers ought to be to these our Patronesses.

But are we?

We learn there is keen competition for the Matronships at the University College Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital. It is not often that these desirable appointments are vacant. Pensions of £250 per annum have, we are informed, been granted by the Committees to the retiring Matrons.

Is it true that the College Council now appoints the Matrons to our Training-schools?

From a letter before us we are led to believe that Hospital Committees and Boards of Guardians have deputed this responsibility to the managers of the College.

Upon inquiry at one hospital, we are informed that "any such claim by the College officials is absolutely unjustifiable." So the "free" Matrons may breathe again, and need not be fobbed off from applying for positions upon this misleading suggestion!

On the plinth of the statue of Nurse Cavell somebody propped a small slab of marble inscribed:—

"Never, Germany, thy head uphold  
Till thou hast bent it here."

Surely no one has a right to place personal additions to the inscription on this memorial statue.

Viscountess Novar of Raith, the wife of the new Secretary for Scotland, is one of the most lucid women speakers who ever mounts a platform, and as President of the Fife County Nursing Association presided at a recent meeting, from which we gather that an increasingly efficient standard of nursing is to be aimed at. The reports submitted proved that the provident system has become very much more popular, and ought to be encouraged. Another very satisfactory thing is that the combination of district nursing work with that of public health nursing has become a little more widespread.

It is very interesting to observe that several of the County Associations have taken up the idea of providing their nurses with motor transport. This has two advantages. It enables a nurse to cover a larger field of work, and also saves her a great deal of physical fatigue, because in dusty, windy winters it is hard work for a woman to bicycle up and down hills in mud and cold, with perhaps at the end of her journey a case to nurse.

£5,000 has been received and invested from the County of Fife British Red Cross Society.

In a short account of the work accomplished during the past year, together with a retrospective view of the work to be aimed at during the coming year, Miss Watt, Lady Superintendent, said that in Fife there was much devoted private voluntary effort and much devoted professional service. There had been given throughout the county during the year 10,003 nursing visits to 4,000 patients, and out of that 10,000 visits only 1,000 had been paid for.

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