

NURSING ECHOES.

We invite Registered Nurses to study the Important Notice on page 378 of this issue. In view of the fact that a fresh election is pending, we invite our readers to study, and preserve for reference, the information on our back Cover Page.

According to the *Poor Law Officers' Journal*:—

"The Wirral Guardians, in reply to a letter received from the West Derby Union on the question of affiliation with another institution for the training of probationer nurses, have decided to send a reply stating 'that probationers, after receiving two years' training at Wirral, would pass on to one of the West Derby Institutions to complete their training. Probationers would be received at an earlier age than at present, and it would be understood that to meet the requirements of the General Nursing Council the two years' training in Wirral Union would count as only one year for the purpose of certificate.'"

Everywhere, with the exception of a negligible quantity, Poor Law Boards of Guardians appear anxious to adopt the standard of the Syllabus of Training drafted by the G.N.C. One thing is very certain, that if they do not train up to it, intelligent, well-educated girls will not enter Poor Law Hospitals for training. The choice is quite simple.

We note that up-to-date paper, *Time and Time*, has an illuminating "par" on the G.N.C. Election. It has the gist of the matter all right. It points out:—

"Some thirty-four candidates are standing for election, and in view of the dissensions in the nursing world it is not surprising to find that fourteen of these are put forward by a Joint Committee representing the College of Nursing, the Association of Hospital Matrons, and the Poor Law Matrons' Association, whilst fourteen stand as independent candidates. The independent candidates believe that the battle for State Registration of Nurses, the echoes of which have not yet died away, was fundamentally an economic one. It centred, so they consider, round the two alternatives of the subjugation of nurses as an unorganised class, whose labour could be provided cheap; or a strong profession developing along the lines of self-determination and self government; they believe further that, in spite of registration, this battle has not yet been

completely won, and that the same issue will be before the electorate when they record their votes during the course of this week."

Sir Norman Moore, Bt., has passed away aged 75, full of years and honours. A past physician at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and President of the Royal College of Physicians, Sir Norman was a very interesting companion to those who knew their sixteenth century, and his "History of St. Bartholomew's Hospital" is possessed by many a Bart.'s nurse. "Proctor" Moore lived within the precincts of the hospital when we were appointed Matron, and in those far-off days in which the Nursing School was organised on the three years' term of training, and better teaching invited, we found Dr. Norman Moore a very determined obstructionist to higher education for nurses. We had several tussles with him from time to time, the chief difference of opinion being his objection to the Matron and Superintendent of Nursing taking part in the examination in practical nursing of the probationers, of which he knew nothing. This matter, so all-important, was submitted to the Treasurer and Almoners, and our contention that unless, as Superintendent of Nursing, we could satisfy ourselves that a nurse was practically proficient, we had no right to sign a Certificate that she had proved herself to be so, won the day.

Alas! we believe this decision was reversed upon our retirement.

Once a young medical Lecturer asked Dr. Moore, as he then was, "What he taught the Nurses?" and was a little taken aback by the quite honest reply, "Just as little as I possibly can"!

How he would have enjoyed the whittling down of the Syllabus of Training by the G.N.C. and the constant reiteration of the medical members of the word "elementary" in connection with the teaching of nurses! After all, we have not travelled very far in the past thirty years to judge from the denial of self-determination for nurses by many men who profess to teach "nursing"!

We note that the Lincolnshire Nursing Association continues to train young women for one year for District Nursing, and that public money is expended for such "training." These young women will not be eligible for registration, and it is most unfair to exploit their work and lives and then leave them high and dry. The new Minister of Health should look into these conditions.

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