

### NURSING ECHOES.

In offering good wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year we specially wish to offer our thanks to those of our readers—real friends—who have during the past year given us their warm support, by active help in the Journal office, and for their kind expressions of sympathy in the very active persecution to which we have been subjected in the performance of our public and professional duty on the General Nursing Council. It is greatly owing to such sympathy that we have been able to attend every one of the thirty meetings, and without exception to voice the rights of the nurses under their Act of Parliament, rights which have been shamelessly trifled with or ignored by the majority of the members of the Council. We offer thanks the more heartily because we left the Council Chamber at the end of its term as fresh and unbroken as we entered it two and a half years ago full of hope and goodwill.

The hope and goodwill are as ardent as ever, and whatever policy may be pursued by those appointed to govern Registered Nurses—largely without their consent or approval—our services may be relied upon in support of self-determination and freedom for the noble profession we love, and have served for upwards of forty years.

We fear in this busy week our readers may hardly have time to study the exhaustive Report of the Meeting held on December 15th of the General Nursing Council. We advise them to do so, and to realise its significance. The most important items are: (1) The failure of the Election under a Medical Dictatorship and the consequent waste of money. (2) The recommendation of the Education Committee to deprive the nurses on the General Register of their Right to a "prescribed scheme" of Education and Training, happily out-voted. (3) The new Rule recommended by the Registration Committee making it possible to flood the General Part of the Register with semi-trained specialists, V.A.D.'s and others; and (4) the disfranchising of 802 nurses, whose papers are in order and who have conformed to the Rule entitling them to Vote, by refusing to consider their Applications for registration.

And ask yourselves if it is possible we nurses are enfranchised citizens living in the twentieth century!

We are glad to know that the untiring work of Miss Isabel Macdonald, Secretary to the Royal British Nurses' Association, for all its

aims, professional and benevolent, have met with much success during the past year.

The beautiful Club, so generously conducted, has met with much appreciation, and on Christmas Day a happy company will no doubt meet round the hospitable tables at the midday Dinner. Christmas at 194, Queen's Gate, is sure to be bright and homelike, and we wish all under its roof a merry time.

Miss S. J. Cockrell, R.R.C., Matron of the St. Marylebone Hospital, St. Charles's Square, W.10, asks us to notify that the View Day Party, for which invitations are issued by Miss M. E. Broadbent and the Hospital Visiting Committee, will take place on Friday, December 29th, from 3 to 6 p.m. Miss Cockrell will be pleased to see all St. Marylebone Trained Nurses, and desires to emphasise the date, as the party this year is on Friday, not on Thursday, as in past years.

We regret to note from the report presented at the Annual Meeting of the Sheffield Queen Victoria District Nursing Association that the good work has resulted in a deficit of £798, for which bad times and not lack of sympathy is responsible. The report brings right home to one the depths of misery and suffering that unemployment has brought into countless homes in Sheffield. Nothing could be more pitiable than the story told by Miss Hancox, the Superintendent—the lack of food, and the miserable and crowded housing conditions soon lower the powers of resistance to disease and sickness, and it is the experience of the Association that the past year has been in some ways worse than during the war.

It is sad to learn from the same source of sick folk who have to be nursed in the kitchen, which is the only accommodation the family has. One of the district nurses visited a mother and child ill with pneumonia after measles, who had not been outside the kitchen for six weeks. When sick people have to be nursed in a comfortless room like that, with the rest of the family living in it, no real headway in their cure can be made.

The fight of the nurses to save life in these disheartening circumstances is a heavy and tiring work. There are 19 of them, and during the past year they have paid 62,294 visits, which averages roughly ten visits a day for each nurse, with no weekly holiday and no recognition of Sunday rest. Some of the cases are very hard, needing frequent attention, while the attendance on cancer patients becomes such a strain for the nurse that Miss Hancox pleaded that it would be an

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