

NURSING ECHOES.

The Duke of Connaught (Grand Prior) has approved a recommendation of the Chapter-General of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England that the life-saving medal of the Order in gold be awarded to Mrs. Lilian Agnes Starr for her bravery in assisting in the rescue of Miss Ellis, who was abducted by Afridis last April from the British cantonment at Kohat, North-West Frontier Province, India.

The Hon. Officers and Delegates of the National Council of Trained Nurses will wear their red, white, and blue badges at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 14th, when they take counsel together at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. Luncheon punctually at one o'clock. General Meeting at 2.30 p.m.

The League of Royal Infirmary Leicester Nurses is holding its annual gathering on the same day, so we shall miss old friends, amongst them Miss Gertrude Rogers and Miss E. Pell-Smith, both of whom have in the past taken an active part in international nursing affairs. We wish them a happy gathering at Leicester.

A Nurses' Reunion will be held at Bethnal Green Hospital on Wednesday, July 4th. The Matron hopes to see many past members of the Nursing Staff at this Reunion, which marks the completion of her twentieth year as Matron. There will be a short service in the Chapel at 4 p.m., with an address by the Rev. Canon Dodds (Matron's brother). Tea and Reception (in the garden if fine) 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. There will be an Entertainment by the Nurses' Dramatic Society, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dancing and refreshments, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

We have been surprised, when attending hospital functions, to note the amount of dramatic talent hidden away under caps and aprons—and let loose for our pleasure and profit. We surmise "play acting" is a very real relaxation indeed to those who live so much by rule as nurses necessarily do, and it is well it should be encouraged.

The *Poor Law Officers' Journal*, the official organ of the National Poor Law Officers' Association, gives a full report of the Annual Meeting of the Association, held in Ipswich

on June 1st and 2nd, and under the heading of "Nursing Matters" we regret to note the Executive Committee report approval of the deprivation by the General Nursing Council of the right of probationers under the Nurses' Registration Act to a "prescribed training," as until this right is conceded Poor Law Infirmarys will continue to suffer from a shortage of well-educated intelligent probationers. The day has gone by when young women are going to accept a pig in a poke, and contract to serve a hospital for three years without the *quid pro quo* of an assured systematic education, especially as the State Examination will be compulsory in 1925.

In this connection we were greatly interested in being introduced at the great gathering of the League of Bart's Nurses, on Saturday last, to the blooming young daughters of several probationers trained there in our day. Just the type of girl we should have been happy to secure for the service of the sick. But in no instance were these girls contemplating making nursing their career. Two were studying medicine; another was a teacher; two were highly qualified clerical workers—all appeared happy with their choice of a career. None of these desirable girls were following in their mothers' footsteps. In reply to questions they variously objected to "drudgery," "pettifogging restrictions," "being treated like children," and "too many masters" (medical and otherwise), "future too precarious."

The attitude of Poor Law Guardians towards standardised training and professional education cannot fail under present conditions to react injuriously upon their nursing schools, and we advise no woman to train at any institution which is not prepared to support "prescribed training" before State Examination.

We are glad, however, to note that the P.L.O.A. are alive to the fact that unless steps are taken to establish one or more (of course, it must be many) scholarships for Poor Law Nurses, with the object of giving more opportunities to members of that Service to take the course of training for Sister Tutors at King's College, all Sister Tutors would be recruited from the general hospitals.

The Secretary pointed out that there were only eight scholarships at present available; only one for Poor Law Trained Nurses, viz., that founded by Miss E. Barton, late Matron of Chelsea Infirmary.

The Meeting was unanimous that something ought to be done in this matter, so the question of scholarships was referred to Committee.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)