

### NURSING ECHOES.

Parliament was opened on Tuesday by the King in State, accompanied by the Queen. We learn that it is to be a very strenuous Session. The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council intends to take an active part in it, and has mapped out its programme. On Friday, 16th, as many members of the Civic and Professional Rights Sub-Committee as possible will assemble in the Outer Lobby of the House of Commons, and invite support for their rights under the Nurses' Registration Act.

Collecting Cards have been sent out to members of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses by Miss Helen Todd, President, and Mrs. Hayward, Hon. Secretary, of the sub-committee for the Octocentenary Appeal for the hospital. £1,000 is asked for, with which to endow a bed, to be named "The Octocentenary Bed," given by the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

The time is short, as members are asked to send subscriptions by May next to Mrs. de Segundo, 39, Hewitt Road, Belsize Park, N.W.2.

The Octocentenary functions are to be held early in June, not the least interesting of which will be St. Bartholomew's Fair, held in the General Post Office grounds just over the wall.

Lady Inverclyde, President of the Scottish Branch of the Overseas Nursing Association, writing in the press from Castle Wemyss, Wemyss Bay, urges the claims of the Association for a measure of support. She points out that the object of the Association, which has its headquarters at the Imperial Institute, London, is to provide trained nurses for the British Colonies, Dependencies, and other British communities abroad, both for private and hospital work, and to facilitate and assist in any other way the work of nursing. There are at present only about thirty subscribers to the Association in Scotland, and Lady Inverclyde pleads for greater support. Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Secretary of the Scottish Branch, Mrs. Douglas Dawson, 23, Regent Terrace, Edinburgh, or to Headquarters.

Those who have lived in one or more of our Overseas Dominions know how urgent is the need of a trained nurse when acute illness attacks a representative of the Empire, perhaps in a lonely outpost. Surely it is worth some

self-denial—and many subscriptions could be given without it—to keep the far-flung flag of Empire floating over a living worker who is furthering its interests, instead of covering the coffin of one whose life was laid down in its service—a life which might have been saved had the skill, and knowledge, and care which a trained nurse can give been available in his hour of need.

The question of establishing a Register for Health Visitors was recently considered by members of the London Centre of the Women Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association. This would involve the definition and adoption of a minimum standard of qualification, always a difficult matter, because it affects vested interests. As a model qualification, that established by the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., could scarcely be bettered, *i.e.*, a three-years' certificate of general training as a nurse (a State Registered Nurse, we presume), the certificate of the Central Midwives Board, and the Health Visitors certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. If a Health Visitors' Service were built up on these lines, it might do very fine work for the health of the people. The Board of Education at present recognizes the following institutions for the training of Health Visitors:—The Battersea Polytechnic, Bedford College for Women, King's College for Women, the National Health Society, Liverpool School of Hygiene, and University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire (Cardiff). The Ministry of Health now requires a three-years' certificate of general training as a qualification for Health Visitors.

As we have reported, a smokers room for the nurses at St. Leonard's Hospital is to be provided by the Shoreditch Guardians. Smoking having been prohibited by the Matron had been going on surreptitiously, with, no doubt, the usual experience of smoking in bed—a terrible danger of fire, and often damage to sheets.

It is enlightening to note the tone with which the Guardians approached this question when discussed.

Alderman Wood (indignantly): Surely you are not going to allow the nurses to smoke in the place, are you?

Councillor D. Lipman (who is a tobaccoist): Certainly!—better for trade.

Alderman Wood: I see; you sell "fags"! (Laughter.) I think it is disgraceful. You have a Chinaman or two round here, and I

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