

### NURSING ECHOES.

The Editor has greatly enjoyed the contents of the *B.J.N.* postbag this week. So many kind and appreciative letters from old friends, and also from the younger generation of readers. Anyway, there is in the profession a substantial nucleus of intelligent women who realise the value of a free professional organ in the press, and who intend to keep a monthly journal going in which to express their opinions, and uphold their right to professional independence.

We did not, however, receive the 5,000 subscribers by return of post, and again draw the attention of subscribers to the Form on the inside back cover, which we shall be pleased to have filled in and sent to the office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., by the first post possible. We publish specimen letters in the Correspondence column, of which we have received a very great number, and for which we are sincerely grateful.

By the time the majority of our readers receive their Journal this week the "intensive" Election will be over, and we shall know the result. We hope to see many Registration friends returned to the House of Commons.

Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N., has been in charge of the nursing contingent working for the return of the Nurses' Champion, Major R. W. Barnett, in South-West St. Pancras. We need honourable gentlemen in the House of Commons in every Party, but we specially need one who has proved himself our sincere friend, irrespective of Party interest. The women M.P.s have quite failed to realise our needs. The Nursing Question is an economic one, and they do not appear to have taken the trouble to study it. Sad to say, few lay-women who are not wage-earners have the slightest real sympathy with the organisation of trained nursing as a profession.

The first meeting of the members of the United Nursing Services Club, Ltd., will be held at 34, Cavendish Square, W.1, on December 12th, 1923, at 3.15 p.m. Brigadier-General R. H. More, C.M.G., C.B.E., will be in the chair, and the speakers will be Lady Cooper (late Lady Mayoress) and Major-General C. E. Pollock, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. It is hoped that members will make a very great effort to be present, and to bring their friends with them.

We have long been of opinion that there should be greater facilities for the training of male nurses in general nursing than at present exist, as there is a useful sphere of work for them in private houses, in cases of general paralysis, as well as surgical cases, but, so far as we know, only two hospitals have received recognition from the General Nursing Council for England and Wales as general training schools for male nurses, namely, the Hackney Union Infirmary and the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, which means that the supply of well-trained nurses is, of necessity, very limited.

The other opportunity for the training of male nurses is, if they receive the "prescribed training" in the service of the Admiralty, the Army Council, or the Air Council.

Mr. F. W. Stratton, S.R.N., member of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, states in a letter to the press that "for nearly twenty years past, if not more, there have been some facilities for men to train to become male nurses on the same lines as women," and that "many of these men, fully qualified and certificated male nurses, have had to drift into other occupations owing to the fact that there have been no posts for them because the Poor Law Service is flooded with untrained men acting as male nurses, who cannot prove one year's training to qualify them for the State Register." He expresses the hope that more Boards of Guardians will soon realise that there are fully trained male nurses in the country, and is of opinion that "as soon as there exists a sufficient demand for the trained man, many men in the Service will go and train, and more training Schools for Male Nurses will be opened."

We are glad to note a general movement for affiliation between hospitals, voluntary and poor law, in order that they may be recognized together as complete training schools under the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. This is as it should be, and will no doubt result both in the better training of nurses, and the better nursing of the patients in the institutions concerned.

We observe that the Mental Hospitals Committee of the London County Council reported to the Council at a recent meeting that the Medico Psychological Association had decided to dispense with the intermediate examination, and to hold only two examinations, preliminary and final, and that it would therefore be

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)