

NURSING ECHOES.

Will our readers note that from June 1st the Editorial Address of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will be at the office of the JOURNAL, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1, instead of at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., where, for thirty years, through the courtesy of Dr. Bedford Fenwick, a fine room, free of cost, has been at the disposal of the editorial staff, and the files, not only of the JOURNAL, but innumerable nursing activities, have been stored. For the future, now that the JOURNAL is issued monthly instead of weekly, an editorial room of sufficient dimensions has been reserved at the office. The Editor will, therefore, be obliged if all communications, papers, and magazines are addressed to her at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1. When one realises that, for thirty years, nearly all the propaganda for the organisation of the Nursing profession by the State in the United Kingdom, has been drafted and written at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, that the output should have been amazing can easily be understood, and the task of the Editor and sub-Editor in inspecting the archives before the removal has been no light labour. All historic documents have been preserved, so that when the history of the Registration Movement comes to be written, the truth can be verified. This is the more necessary when one finds claims advanced by the salaried agents of the College of Nursing, Ltd., for success accomplished by the work and financial support of others—a mean and detestable policy by which the modern, very ignorant nurse is enlisted in its favour.

Miss Sherriff McGregor, the organising Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., is an unblushing advocate of this reprehensible policy. Speaking at Belfast early in May, before the Belfast Centre, at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, she had the audacity to mislead her audience by the following untrue statement:—

“The College of Nursing had, after a long struggle, established the right of all nurses who achieved the same educational standard to be registered, and thus receive the same recognition. The winning of registration did not, however, end the task of the College of Nursing. Many other matters required attention, one of which was the superannuation of the nurse.”

The College of Nursing, Ltd., did not come into existence until 1915, *twenty-eight years* after the Royal British Nurses Association was founded for “the winning of registration,” *eleven years* after the Society for the State Registration of Nurses drafted the first Nurses’ Registration Bill, and had it introduced into the House of Commons! The College of Nursing, Ltd., was founded by hospital governors and other members of the laity to promote a “voluntary,” not a “legal” system of registration, and, with the most callous disregard of the devotion of the Registration group of nurses, *actually blocked their Bill in the House of Commons in 1919*, when the tactics of its officials to have its Council recognised as the governing body of the nursing profession were defeated in the Standing Committee, and had it not been for the action of the then Government in bringing in and passing a Nurses’ Registration Bill, the nurses of the United Kingdom *would be unregistered*

to this day. To inform ignorant nurses that the College won registration is a very reprehensible lie; and Miss Sherriff McGregor, if she knows anything of the history of the Registration movement, knows her statement to be so.

Considerable local interest and pleasure was displayed at Finchley last month on the occasion of the visit of Her Royal Highness, the Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles—President of the Royal Air Force Nursing Service—to the Royal Air Force Officers’ Hospital.

Her Royal Highness was attended by Miss Kenyon-Slaney, and wore a fawn-embroidered coat and skirt, with a navy blue georgette hat with a wreath of navy blue and pink georgette flowers.

She was received by Air-Vice-Marshal Sir Vyall Vyvyan, K.C.B., D.S.O., Air Officer Commanding the Coastal Area. Among the officers who had the honour of being presented to Her Royal Highness were:—The Matron-in-Chief, Miss J. M. Cruickshank, R.R.C., The Director of Medical Services, Air-Commodore Munro, C.B., C.I.E., The Matron, Miss M. Botwood, and the Officer Commanding the Hospital, Squadron-Leader A. J. Brown, D.S.O. A bouquet of pale mauve and pink sweet peas, tied with ribbon of the Royal Air Force colours, was presented to Her Royal Highness by a member of the Nursing Staff.

Her Royal Highness made a tour of the wards and laboratory, saying a few words to each of the patients; and afterwards had tea in the Matron’s sitting-room. Before leaving, Her Royal Highness signed the Visitors’ Book, and expressed her gratification at her visit and pleasure at meeting representatives of the Nursing Service to which she has graciously given her name—an honour which is greatly appreciated by all members of the Nursing Staff.

A Reunion of the 20th General Hospital will be held at “The United Nursing Services’ Club, Limited,” 34, Cavendish Square, W.1, on June 11th at 8.30 p.m., when it is hoped that a large number will attend. Applications for tickets, which are 6s. each, should be made to Miss A. Cunningham, Bedford College, Regent’s Park, N.W. 1. These gatherings of nurses who are united by the strong ties of work together in the face of a common peril are always most pleasurable, and no doubt many will avail themselves of the opportunity of renewing friendships made under exceptional conditions.

The Annual Report of the Nurses’ Co-operation, 22, Langham Street, Portland Place, W., for the year 1923, states that in accordance with the Committee’s decision only vacancies caused by resignations during the last few years have been filled, and the total staff, including those nurses who take mental cases only, now number 400, instead of over 500 as in the past. No nurse is admitted to the staff unless she holds a three years’ certificate from a recognised training school. She must also have had some experience in private nursing. We are glad to note that although the Committee of the Co-operation gave no assistance whatever in working for, and financing, the movement for the State Registration of Nurses, it now recognises its professional and

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