

### NURSING ECHOES.

Our December issue carries with it our warmest good wishes to our readers, far and near, for a "Very Happy Christmas" and a "Prosperous New Year," for the banner of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and all for which it stands, high inspiration, service of the community, sick and well, self-determination and professional freedom for nurses, is far flung, it is uplifted not only to the limits of Empire, but is read and appreciated in many other countries where nurses are professionally organised. Our New Year's greetings, hearty and sincere, to one and all must therefore go forth in December.

And, with our greetings, we send also a request, that those who by faithful support have proved they value a journal professionally edited, will help us to increase its influence by extending its circulation yet further. In this issue will be found a subscription form, and if every present subscriber who receives it will make a point of handing the form to a friend who does not now subscribe, and ask her (or him) to fill it in and send it, with seven shillings, to the Manager, "B.J.N.," 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1, they will help materially to gain new influence for its policy.

The great disadvantage of a monthly instead of a weekly professional journal is that arrangements must be made so long beforehand. In this connection we have great pleasure in announcing that Major R. W. Barnett, M.P., has accepted entertainment to Dinner, at which he will be presented with a copy of the Nurses' Register—in gratitude for his great national work in giving his "lucky number" to the nurses and introducing the Nurses' Registration Bill—adopted and passed into law by the Government of the day in 1919—as the Nurses' Registration Act. How far-reaching this great educational and disciplinary measure will be in its beneficent effect on raising standards of national health—it is early to predict. That depends upon the intelligence and sympathy of a future General Nursing Council—purged of a reactionary and dominating policy enforced by medical direction which is still standing between the probationer nurses and their right under the Act to a Syllabus of Training. Until this fundamental reform is put into practice very little real progress in nursing education can be effected, and we advise the real registrationists—greatly in the minority on the General Nursing Council—to make the just demand of the nurses, practical politics. The late Council on two occasions voted in favour of a Syllabus of Training, and the minority of the present Council were voted on to the Nurses' Governing Body to see that justice was done. We do not consider that they have been sufficiently emphatic in Council in this connection. We look for more courage in the future.

Major Barnett, after a few days in Tunis, is recuperating from his victorious political campaign on the Riviera until the opening of Parliament. The date for the Dinner is not yet arranged, but will not be until after the New Year. Registered nurses wishing to be

present should send in their names to the Hon. Secretary, Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., when full information of the arrangements will be sent to them as soon as possible. We have not enjoyed an historic social nursing function for some time; and the Presentation of Nurses' Register Dinner to Major Barnett, M.P., supported, we hope, by other Members of Parliament—who proved themselves our very loyal friends during our appeal for legal status—should prove an inspiring occasion; and it is hoped many registration pioneers will be present, as well as the representatives of the younger generation of Registered Nurses, who are those to benefit by the devotion and professional ideals of their predecessors.

We are informed by Dame Maud McCarthy, Matron-in-Chief of the Territorial Army Nursing Service, that this is the first year since the War that the senior members of the T.A.N.S. have resumed their course of seven days' annual training at Military Hospitals, during which time they were granted pay and allowances according to their rank. Permission has been given for the number to be increased from 23 to 46 annually, and Principal Matrons, Matrons, Assistant Matrons, and senior Sisters who have not already served in their respective ranks may now be recommended by their Principal Matrons for this special course.

Thirty-five members took the course this year at the Military Hospitals at Woolwich, Netley, Millbank, Aldershot, Devonport, Tidworth, Shorncliffe, York, Colchester, Cosham, and Dame Maud has had many letters from these members saying not only how interesting they found the course and how they have benefitted by what they have learnt, but also speaking in the highest terms of the warm welcome they received from everyone at the Hospital selected for their training.

In future all nurses who join the infectious hospitals service of the Metropolitan Asylums Board are to undergo the Schick test to ascertain their susceptibility to diphtheria.

It was reported to the Board recently that results obtained in hospitals where the test had been extensively employed tended to show that from 15 to 30 per cent. of the nurses were susceptible to the disease.

Nurses would be given the option of being made immune from the disease, with which they were all likely to be brought into contact in their work.

The period of convalescence after a serious illness is one which presents many problems to educated gentlewomen upon whose small savings the expenses connected with acute illness have often made serious inroads. It is with pleasure that, by the courtesy of Mr. T. H. Friswell, Clerk to the Governors, we are able to publish a picture of the Frederick Andrew Convalescent Home (the Manor House) at West Malling, a most charming convalescent home established by the liberality of the late Mr. Frederick Andrew, a solicitor in Lincoln of considerable standing, who left the bulk of his substantial fortune for the purpose of founding a convalescent home for "poor gentlewomen honestly striving to earn their own livelihood, either as governesses, teachers of music

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