

NURSING ECHOES.

It was announced at a Meeting of the Executive Committee of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses that Queen Alexandra, with the approval of the King, has appointed Mr. Lionel de Rothschild and the Hon. Arthur Villiers as additional trustees. Reports were presented by the various sub-committees showing that the work was progressing satisfactorily. Eleven districts had been affiliated during the last two months, and reports had been received on 485 nurses working under 244 associations. The names of 92 nurses had been placed on the roll of Queen's Nurses up to January 1st, 1924, and 15 candidates accepted for district training. Help had been given to six Queen's Nurses from the Tate (Sick) Fund. The financial position caused grave anxiety, as the sum of £5,000 will have to be raised this year in addition to the ordinary income from investments and annual subscriptions and donations.

Queen's Nurses are so indispensable to the poor that surely the time is not far distant when the Ministry of Health might include the work of the Institute in the public health services recognised for grants.

We have received for review a copy of "The Register of Nurses," printed and published under the direction of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. We have already bought and reviewed this Register, but it always gives us pleasure to handle this volume, which has cost the pioneer nurses so much in time, thought, and devoted public service.

Moreover, this Register is a creditable publication, giving, as it does, adequate information regarding each nurse on the list.

The Register has a dignified appearance, being well printed, in clear type, on good paper, and is handsomely bound in scarlet cloth, with gilt inscription. How narrowly the Nursing Profession secured this valuable record in its present form is now a matter of history.

In looking back upon our work as a member of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, there is nothing which it gives us so much satisfaction to have accomplished for our colleagues, as having drafted the amended Schedule regulating the formation of the Register, when Miss Cox-Davies, supported by the College Group of Matrons, and Dr. Goodall, attempted to deprive the most highly educated and efficient members of the profession of the record of their certificates upon the published Register.

Some day, no doubt, the bulk of nurses, who are so terribly ignorant concerning their own professional affairs, will realise that their whole future professional status and economic security was involved in this struggle.

The Register costs 10s. 6d., and should, most certainly, find a place in the library of every Nursing School. Indeed, those schools which really value the scope of the Nurses' Registration Act should secure and file a copy of every issue of the Register, which can be obtained from the headquarters of the General Nursing Council, 12, York Gate, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

A correspondent writes:—"Private Nurses are often able to give a little practical advice in the course of attending cases in the home, and it is extraordinary how unpractical, in so far as home nursing is concerned, many good housewives are. You will often find in a well-ordered house, where linen, crockery, and groceries are all well kept in comfy cupboards, that there is not a corner where aids to hygiene and health can find space. Over and over again in my nursing career much pain and discomfort could have been prevented if only a home medicine chest and a few first-aid appliances had been to hand. Years ago my mother bought from you at our R.B.N.A. Bazaar a "Nursing Record" emergency box, containing just such articles as are required, and she found it invaluable. A neatly printed card of contents was affixed in the lid. It contained lint, cotton-wool, bandages, strapping, jaconette, stoup flannel, butter cloth, tape measure, needles, pins, and thread, scissors, forceps, thermometer, medicine glasses (ounce and minim), glass spatula, hot-water bottle, Higginson's syringe, and lotion cup, bicarbonate of soda, Listerine, carbolic crystals, carron oil, iodine, and liver pills.

"This box has been kept replenished for all these years, and has served as a model for many out-of-the-way homes, where it took hours to procure such necessities. I have never been able to buy such a box from any supply stores. I wonder why such a 'home help' is not on the market."

There is a consensus of opinion that the reform of the Poor Law is long overdue. Mr. J. L. Garvin expresses the opinion in the *Observer* that "For a decade and a half, since the reports of 1909, the Poor Law, especially in London, has been crying out for reform. The evidence was brought nearly up to date by a powerful Committee during the war. Materials for prompt legislation are complete. There is unusual agreement amongst men of all parties both as to the urgency of reform and the lines on which it ought to proceed. The Prime Minister can now introduce with confidence a Bill for London. It looks as though the present session would see at last the abolition of Boards of Guardians—the survivors of a confused and fumbling Bumbledom—and the transfer of relief and other functions to the borough authorities and the County Councils."

When we realise that it is largely due to the Union of Poor Law Guardians that our Syllabus of Training is being held up, registrationists will lobby with enthusiasm in support of the transfer of power to some intelligent authority.

At the annual meeting of the Leeds District Nursing Association, Professor C. M. Gillespie (chairman) said that the Association would be very much gratified if the Leeds Corporation would permit nurses in uniform to travel free on the tramcars. It cost £100 a year in car fares for nurses from the three homes in Leeds.

A big increase in the amount of work done during the year was reported, with a deficiency of £271 10s. 6d. on the year's working. An appeal for further financial support was made.

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