

NURSING ECHOES.

We hope our Report of the Deputation to the Minister of Health will be carefully read, and that the demand for an inquiry into the whole Nursing Question and for a compulsory Syllabus of Training and a free and democratic Scheme of Election for registered nurses on the General Nursing Council, will receive wide support. The suppression of free speech for the instruction of nurse members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and their meek acquiescence in the policy of their employers on their Council, has now become a very serious danger to the nursing profession as a whole, as these inarticulate hordes are quoted as supporting a policy against which they are not permitted to hear free argument.

One of the latest victims to the influenza fiend is our very good friend Major Barnett, whose devotion to public duty leaves him little time for rest and recreation. Fortunately he has been nursed by a member of the Registered Nurses' Society, who realises her responsibility, not only to her patient, but to her profession, in helping to restore him to health. The latest bulletin is reassuring, and we all unite to wish "our" M.P. a speedy recovery.

Once again Lady FitzGerald is most kindly inviting Queen's Nurses for a holiday at Buckland, Berkshire, during the month of May. Many will wish to avail themselves of a fortnight's rest and refreshment free of charge under most pleasant conditions in a charming country village. Application should be made to Miss Tarver, Buckland Lodge, Faringdon, Berks, and a reference, either from the County Superintendent or the Head of a Queen's Home, should be enclosed.

A scheme for co-ordinating nursing services in Carnarvonshire in charge of a county superintendent received the approval of a meeting of the county nursing association recently held at Carnarvon. It will now be passed on to the county council and the county education authority.

This scheme had been precipitated partly owing to dissatisfaction expressed by Dr. Parry Edwards, medical officer of health, with the nursing service in certain schools.

Alderman J. R. Pritchard, chairman of the School Attendance Committee, explained that the nurses were not blamed for the unsatisfactory cases. If, however, there was no improvement, the County Council would have to withhold the grants from the nursing associations.

Dr. Robert Parry considered that, to ensure satisfactory school hygiene, bathrooms and proper dressing-rooms should be provided in schools.

It was suggested that motor-bicycles be placed at the service of the nurses. We suggest that, for the future, Queen's Nurse standards be universally adopted in the nursing services in Wales.

The Committee in charge of the administration of Hazelwood House, Dumbreck, which is now a home

for retired nurses, and forms the Nurses' Memorial to King Edward VII in Scotland, held their annual meeting recently within the City Chambers, Glasgow, Mrs. David M'Cowan, C.B.E., J.P., president, in the chair. In their second annual report, the Committee state that 21 nurses have been admitted since the Home was opened, and they felt that it has already justified its existence. They had had ample proof that such a Home in the West of Scotland was an urgent necessity, and was proving of inestimable value to many nurses. The financial statement, which showed that payments for the year had exceeded the revenue by about £70, was, on the whole, considered fairly satisfactory. Colonel D. J. Mackintosh, resident superintendent, Western Infirmary, in moving the adoption of the reports (agreed), said he had been directly associated with the work of Glasgow hospitals and the training of nurses for almost forty years. The remuneration received by nurses, until quite recently, bore no proportion to the services they rendered to the community, and left no margin whatever for them to make provision for their declining years. Hazelwood House, through the kindness of many friends and the organising ability of the Committee, provided not an institution but a real home for those who had done valuable work for the sick and suffering. The nurses could furnish their own apartment, keeping beside them those treasures which it had taken many years to collect, and enjoy all the privileges of the Home without being dependent on relatives or regarded as recipients of charity. Dr. Mackintosh also proposed that cordial thanks be given to the Committee of Management and to the Matron, Miss Valentine, for the very successful way in which the Home is conducted. On the motion of Sir Andrew H. Pettigrew, the office-bearers were re-elected.

Snobbish women, in dressing their nursemaids in the uniform of trained nurses, hunt the dress adopted from pillar to post. First it was our cloak and bonnet; now it is our coat and veil. The press records a sad accident. As a train entered a station, a girl in trained nurse's uniform fell in front of it and was killed. The poor girl was identified as a children's nurse at Golders Green. We are still waiting to see a specimen of the garb selected by the G.N.C. as our State Uniform. It should have been on view at the Office ages ago!

After many years' work, on the part of the few, the Legislative Assembly in Victoria, Australia, has passed an Act for the Registration of Nurses, thus the Nurses of Victoria have now legal status, the right to reciprocal recognition in other parts of the British Dominions where similar Acts are in force, the right to wear a prescribed badge, and prescribed distinctive head-dress, and the right to the protected title of Registered Nurse, unregistered persons usurping these privileges lay themselves open to a fine of twenty pounds.

It is a matter for deep regret that Miss Gretta Lyons, who worked so long and so devotedly to obtain these privileges for the trained nurses of Victoria should have died just three weeks before the Act was passed.

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