

NURSING ECHOES.

In reply to several correspondents, the Report of the Select Committee on Nursing Homes (Registration) which was fully reported in this JOURNAL, has been republished by the Stationery Office, together with the proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Index (103, price 9s. net).

This Report will repay study. We fear that the result of publicity for the moment is to injure well-managed Homes—as an indiscriminating public is naturally shocked at the revelations concerning places of ill repute.

Our regret is that the Select Committee failed to advise that completely trained Registered Nurses only should be employed by the managers of Nursing Homes—who charge for trained nursing—and apparently continue to confuse the relations of professional nurses and the domestic staff employed in these institutions. The duties of each should be clearly defined in the system of organisation. As for the employment of untrained and semi-trained women as "probationers" it is entirely unjust to patient and probationer—as the former is not supplied with a safe standard of nursing for which he pays, and the so-called probationer's time and services are being exploited for economic reasons when they ought to be utilised in hospitals where in return they are receiving definite training and working towards their State Examination and State Registration. The Select Committee's recommendations fail in this particular to claim justice both for patient and nursing staff.

There is no Nurses' organisation the loss of which we deplore more than that of the National Union of Trained Nurses. It had a soul, and all its aims were truly for the benefit of the people. We are hoping that its mantle will fall on the British College of Nurses, as some of its devoted members are now "acorns," and we shall rejoice to see their spirit permeate our work.

Annually the founder of the Union issues a most artistic little journal in its green and white cover and well-known star and motto, *Per Ardua ad Astra*, on cover. "We have spoken a word for Freedom," stands out this year above the date, 1926.

There are still benevolent schemes carried on in which Miss Eden takes an active interest, and Miss Muriel is the Hon. Secretary of the Old Members' League, she is also a Fellow of the B.C.N., and will help on its work, we hope, in the future.

An interesting ceremony took place in the Board Room of the Guardians' Offices, 129 Fulham Palace Road, W., on September 27th, when the Bishop of Kensington, the Right Rev. J. P. Maud, presented Medals, Certificates and Prizes to the Nurses trained at the Fulham Hospital who have successfully passed the Examination of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

The Bishop was welcomed and introduced by the Chairman of the Board (C. Botterill, Esq.), and after a statement by the Medical Superintendent, Dr. C. T. Parsons, O.B.E., the Board proceeded to seal the certificates

of training of the Nurses who have passed the examination of the General Nursing Council.

The Silver Medal was awarded to Probationer Nurse Gertrude E. Hindley, and Bronze Medals and Certificates to Probationer Nurses Isabella Warbrick, Winifred Butler, Grace Harrington, Freda Wilmott Strong, Rebecca Samuel, Elsie A. S. Jones, Elizabeth A. Wilkes, and Lily Hindley.

Ten Probationer Nurses were awarded first class certificates, and eleven second class certificates for proficiency in cookery for the sick, and the Universal Cookery and Food Association presented a copy of the book "Cookery for Invalids and the Convalescents," to Nurses Nellie Williams, Dorothy Elliott, Martha O'Dwyer, Hilda Griffen and Emily B. E. Sylvester for proficiency in practical cookery.

The following prizes were awarded to Nurses who have not yet completed the requisite period of training:—

Medical Superintendent's Prizes.—Probationer Nurses Gertrude E. Hindley and Elsie Tubb.

Matron's Prizes.—For Second Year Probationers.—Probationer Nurse Dorothy Annie Blackall. For First Year Probationers.—Probationer Nurse Edith A. Fowler.

Sister Tutor's Prize.—For Junior Probationers.—Probationer Nurse Nellie Williams.

At the conclusion of the ceremony a dainty tea was served in the Nurses' Home, when the guests were welcomed by the Matron, Miss Allbutt, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.

The Fulham Hospital first became a recognised training School for Probationer Nurses in 1898. The Local Government Board (now the Ministry of Health) stipulated that certificates should be issued only to those nurses who had completed three years' training and successfully passed an examination by an outside examiner, a further condition being made that the grant of a certificate should be subject to the nurse's conduct and work having proved satisfactory to the Medical Superintendent and Matron. The examining body is now the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the authority created under the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919.

In all 270 Probationer Nurses have successfully passed through the school and become entitled to be registered as nurses under the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, a result upon which the Board of Guardians, the Medical Superintendent, the Matron and the Sister Tutor are to be congratulated.

Mr. Stanley T. Clarke, of Epsom, has addressed the following letter to *The Times*:—

May I be allowed to take the opportunity given by the appearance of Dr. Shadwell's articles in *The Times* on district nurses of voicing an appreciation of these splendid women?

I lived for some time in a small industrial town in North Lincolnshire, and part of my sojourn there was in the home of a district nurse. There the duties of nursing were added to those of a mother, and tribute must be paid to the wonderful way the tasks were overcome. I have known as many as three maternity cases in one day, two of which "calls" were made long after we had retired for the night. The amount of work these entail can, of course, only be appreciated by a medical man, although the physical effort is obvious to all. But these were cheerfully undertaken and, further, other duties not in the daily "diary" were included.

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