

## NURSING ECHOES.

We earnestly invite our readers to study the important Editorial which appears this week, and to pass it on for the consideration of their colleagues. We Registered Nurses have now a glorious opportunity of proving our devotion to the welfare of humanity, and our appreciation of professional responsibility. Sympathy and Solidarity must be the watchwords of Registered Nurses for the future.

The King and Queen have had an anxious time with sickness in the Royal Family, and it is with pleasure we report the convalescence of the Prince of Wales and Princess Victoria. The latter was attended by Miss Fletcher, the nurse who tended King Edward and Queen Alexandra—duties of the utmost responsibility.

Dame Maud McCarthy, G.B.E., R.R.C., sends us the following communication *re* the offering by the Nursing Profession to the National Memorial to Queen Alexandra.

"I am writing to let you know that I have been asked to organise an offering from the nurses towards the National Memorial to Queen Alexandra.

Their Majesties the King and Queen have approved that it should take the form of an Endowment Fund to the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, which is the only Nursing Organisation the beneficent operation of which touches every corner of the Realm, a relatively small proportion of the money collected being devoted to a visible memorial to the revered Queen-Mother, in the capital of the Empire.

I have undertaken it feeling that every member of the Profession will consider it a privilege to be given the opportunity of sending their mite to this Memorial in memory of her who, during her long life, endeared herself to everyone, not only by her graciousness and kindness of heart to those in sickness and distress, but by her special interest in nursing and the Nursing Profession.

After consultation with representatives of every branch of the Nursing Profession, all who are able to do so are asked to give at least one shilling.

All contributions should be sent to me at 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. I shall be very grateful if you will help me to make this appeal and its object known as widely as you can."

We feel sure there will be a wide response to this appeal from British Nurses, and wish Dame Maud McCarthy, the Hon. Organiser of the Nurses' Offering, every success. We are pleased to know that the offering of the nursing profession already amounts to over £500.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee, of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, the sub-committees for 1926 were appointed. The Committee heard with pleasure that the Long Service Fund for Queen's Nurses had been very well supported by the nursing associations throughout England and Wales, and that over £3,800 had been invested for the credit of this fund. The National Memorial Fund for Queen Alexandra has now reached £45,000.

At the annual congress of the Incorporated Association of Hospital Officers, held in the Central Hall, Westminster, Miss R. E. Darbyshire, matron of University College Hospital, speaking on "The Nursing Requirements of a Modern Hospital and the Requirements of a Modern Nurse in Training," pointed out the need for education in all who sought to be nurses. In spite of what was said about the modern girl, she believed that human suffering still appealed to her as much as in the past, and that the majority of girls entered the profession because they wished to do something to help their fellow-creatures. Miss Darbyshire, in conclusion, emphasised the need for a higher standard of comfort for the nurses, with greater leisure, and payment on such a scale as to enable them to make provision for their old age.

Lord Riddell, opening a discussion, said that in looking over the examination papers for nurses he had been struck by the abstruse nature of the questions asked. They were more suitable for medical students than nurses. The present papers were so strenuous that they were keeping a great many useful people out of the profession, and unless care was exercised the smaller hospitals, at any rate, would have great difficulty in supplying their nursing requirements.

How is it, that whenever an expert matron of great experience pleads for better educational methods and economic conditions for members of her own profession a hospital chairman immediately throws cold water on such aspirations? It really is time for hospital managers (and the majority of them are doing it) to realise how important it is to allow full scope for the natural evolution of nursing considering the uprising of medicine and surgery, and that an attitude of limitation where nursing education is concerned—in the hope of attracting the uneducated girl the better to accomplish physical drudgery—has gone far in the past to degrade nursing, and alienate many bright young women from making it their profession.

We have not seen the examination questions to which Lord Riddell takes exception, but we have seen a series of those set for the State Examination, and can find nothing in them a probationer ought not to be required to reply to if she is to be called upon to take safe care of the sick. Indeed the majority of these questions are of a very simple nature. We are of course strongly in favour of a very practical curriculum of clinical training in the wards. The *comfort* of the patient is of paramount importance.

It was recently reported to the Medway Guardians that more nurses at the Hospital had passed the State examination, and the thanks of the Board were given to the Medical Officer and the Hospital Matron. The Chairman (Alderman Cloake) remarked that the report on the last examination was one of the best they had ever had, and Mr. Clements said it would be interesting to the public to know that 19 of the nurses had passed out of 20.

We congratulate Guardians, Medical Officer, Matron, and the hard-working nurses. All must have combined to produce such an excellent record.

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