

NURSING ECHOES.

Her Majesty the Queen sent the following message to the Maternity Mortality Conference held in London on Tuesday, February 28th:—

"The Queen views with grave concern the continued high rate of maternal mortality. Her Majesty feels that a very real endeavour should be made to remove this reproach from our national life. The Queen trusts this may be achieved through the education of mothers themselves in the need for ante-natal care; through inquiry into the immediate causes of mortality in child-birth; and through a wider provision of first-rate medical and midwifery services.

"The Queen considers that the time has come for concerted action to be taken in dealing with so pressing an evil, and will await with interest the conclusions of this Conference."

The Conference adopted a Resolution incorporating the following recommendations:—

(1) The obtaining of a medical inquiry into every death due to child-birth.

(2) Provision of further training in midwifery for medical students.

(3) Setting up of a committee to advise on the training and employment of midwives.

(4) Local authorities to be urged to make their maternity services adequate.

(5) Readjustment and extension of the National Health Insurance Acts' provisions so that medical and midwifery services should be available for mothers, both for ante-natal care and during and after confinement.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, held at 58, Victoria Street, S.W., on February 29th, at which Miss Bright presided, it was reported that the new Charter of the Institute had received the approval of the King, and that the Institute would in future be known by its new title of the "Queen's Institute of District Nursing."

The Committee heard with much pleasure of the progress that had been made with the scheme under which a large number of the most famous gardens in England and Wales will be open to the public on the payment of a small fee for the benefit of the Queen's Institute and the nursing associations. It is hoped that this scheme will serve a double purpose by giving pleasure to a large number of people and by providing additional funds for the promotion of district nursing.

We learn with much pleasure that a League of Queen's Nurses has been formed. It has great potentialities as the organisation of a fine body of nurses who have deservedly a professional reputation second to none.

On the invitation of Dame Anne Beadsmore-Smith, Matron-in-Chief of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, and the Principal Matrons of the London Territorial General Hospitals, Miss Helen Dey, R.R.C. (No. 1),

Miss R. Darbyshire, R.R.C. (No. 2), Miss S. J. Cockrell, R.R.C. (No. 3), and Miss E. MacManus, R.R.C. (No. 4), a number of guests assembled on Saturday, February 25th, in the Great Hall of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, kindly lent by the Governors and Almoners of the Hospital, to meet the Nursing Staffs of the London Territorial Hospitals. It is long since such a gathering took place, and it was evident that this opportunity of meeting old friends in such delightful surroundings was greatly appreciated by those present.

Amongst the guests invited were Miss F. Hodgins, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., Miss Osborne, R.R.C., Principal Matron Q.A.I.M.N.S., Miss J. M. Cruickshank, K.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, Miss Davies, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Ministry of Pensions Nursing Service, Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Also the Dowager Countess of Airlie, the Dowager Lady Dimsdale, Lady Antrobus, Sir Matthew and Lady Fell, General and Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and the Matrons of the principal London Hospitals and many others.

A dainty tea was served and enjoyed at little tables scattered throughout the Hall, and much entertainment was provided by Miss Barrow, a charming and talented amateur, whose humorous sketches, particularly the "Honest Charwoman" were very greatly appreciated as was the music of men from St. Dunstan's.

The London County Council has given public notice that the Nursing Homes Act comes into force on July 1st, 1928, in the County of London. Application for registration must be made to the Council on an approved form, accompanied by a fee of five shillings, and failure to register involves liability to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds for a first offence, or in the case of a second or subsequent offence to imprisonment for not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds, or to both imprisonment and fine.

It therefore behoves the proprietors of Nursing Homes to see the homes for which they are responsible are duly registered before July 1st.

The Annual Meeting of the Central Council for District Nursing in London was held at the offices of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, on February 23rd. Sir William J. Collins, M.D., K.C.V.O., Chairman, presided, and the draft Annual Report for the year was approved. Owing to the kindness of the Trustees of the London Parochial Charities, two bursaries were awarded to nurses in federated Associations prepared to undertake midwifery or maternity nursing in London—Nurse Simpson of the Hammersmith Nursing Association; and Nurse Pretty of the Ranyard Nurses.

The Executive Committee, after conference with the Medical Officers of Health of all Metropolitan Boroughs and also representatives of the M.A.B. and the L.C.C., have agreed that the home nursing of scarlet fever could be undertaken with careful precautions, provided that the nurses were not in attendance on maternity cases.

The decision of the Executive was communicated to the affiliated District Nursing Associations, and this

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)