

NURSING ECHOES.

The coaching classes now being held by Miss Dorothy K. Graham at the British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, W., details of which will be found on page 36, mark another stage in its work. It is the desire of the Council of the College to promote the education of nurses in every way possible, and as the opinion has been expressed that there is a desire for tuition classes to supplement those regularly given in preparation for the examinations of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in connection with Approved Training Schools it is hoped that the classes in charge of Miss Graham will meet a real need. In a large class of students preparing for any examination some assimilate knowledge much more readily than others, some are weak in one subject, some in another. And this is as true of student nurses as of any other class. Such nurses are wise to seek further teaching, and it is to meet their need, as well as the need of some who, having had the necessary training, have failed to satisfy the examiners in the State Examination, but are determined to do so on a future occasion.

All information as to these classes can be obtained from the Secretary, at 39, Portland Place, London, W., and Miss Graham will be pleased to meet intending students at the College by appointment, and to discuss their needs with them.

We have much pleasure in drawing attention to the announcement under "Fixtures" of the British College of Nurses, on page 36, of the Lecture to be delivered at the College on February 19th by Sir Robert Armstrong Jones, K.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., on "The mind: how is it made, how should we work it for the best?" There is no higher authority on the subject, and we hope that Fellows and Members of the College will make a note of this date and keep it free. Sir Robert has always been a most kind friend to nurses; and his interest in their organisations dates back at least to the Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses in London in 1909, when he addressed the Congress on "The Care of the Insane," and attended the Banquet, which was one of its most enjoyable features, on the evening of July 21st.

Who will say that the Nurses at the Darent Training Colony are not entitled to the new Nurses' Home, the erection of which has been approved by the Metropolitan Asylums Board? When the matter was under discussion the Mental Hospitals Committee stated that the nurses' sleeping quarters are at present scattered over the Colony. Some nurses had to use patients' baths in large bath-rooms, through which other nurses had to pass while bathing was in progress.

The next time it is urged as imperative that girls of a high class should be attracted to the Mental Service it might reasonably be pointed out that such conditions are not an incentive to the class desired to offer themselves for training. We hope and believe that they are exceptional. The new Home is to cost over £40,000.

N.A.W.U., the official organ of the National Asylum Workers' Union, reports that an extraordinary position has arisen at Middlesbrough owing to the refusal of the Medical Superintendent of the mental hospital to hand over a patient to the police to be dealt with on charges of burglary and house-breaking.

When the man's name was called at the police court the Chief Constable, Mr. Henry Riches, explained that he was a patient at the hospital, but escaped. It was alleged that he then equipped himself with certain tools and committed offences.

He was arrested on some premises

which he had broken into, and having regard to his condition, the police courteously handed him over to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital until such time as he could be brought before the court.

The Medical Superintendent, added Mr. Riches, felt that he should not hand the man over to the police without an order from the Home Secretary. Mr. Riches mentioned that he proposed to apply to the Home Secretary and the Lunacy Commissioners for orders to have the man brought before the court.

We are of opinion that the attitude of the Medical Superintendent is correct. The police gave into his keeping not a discharged but an escaped, and therefore presumably insane patient, irresponsible for his actions. It is no part of the duty of the custodian of a sick man to hand him over to the police for trial in a criminal court. It will be interesting to know what action is taken by the Home Secretary and the Lunacy Commissioners.



A KENTUCKY FRONTIER NURSE.

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