

NURSING ECHOES.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Queen's Institute for District Nursing, at 58, Victoria Street, S.W., reports were received from the various sub-committees showing that the names of 105 nurses had been placed on the Roll of Queen's Nurses since the last meeting of the committee and 10 nursing associations had been affiliated. Satisfactory progress was also reported in all the other branches of the Institute's work. Careful consideration has been given as to how an increased number of nurses can be attracted to take up work under the Institute as the present supply is not sufficient to meet the increasing demands from all over the country for Queen's Nurses.

The scheme under which many of the most beautiful and interesting gardens in England and Wales are open to the public in aid of district nursing is again proving very successful.

Hospital Matrons appear to be the least popular section of our profession, to judge from the constant skits and caustic comments concerning them which appear in the Press. Here is a description of a dance in the outpatient department of a hospital, "where a doctor was getting on so well with a dark-haired probationer that he pictured himself Physician-in-Ordinary to the Royal Household.

"The end came suddenly. An elderly woman who wore a kind of pie frill on her head and a gown of black, was sitting apart in regal state. She was 'Matron.' She combined the authority of the Lord Chief Justice with an austerity which suggested the Archbishop of Canterbury. Sharp at 11.30 she rose, caught the eye of the band, which broke off with a strangled yelp, and instantly broke into 'God save the King.'"

Well, we should say that 11.30 p.m. is quite late enough if patients are to be properly cared for at 7 or 7.30 a.m. Also we consider that dances should not take place within the walls of hospitals, which are well-nigh sacred places, dedicated to the use of the sick and suffering. Let nurses dance if they will—dance the tiredness out of their feet—but in a place apart.

The London County Council are considering the appointment to a position on the Central Administrative Staff of the Public Health Department of a fully qualified (presumably a State Registered) Nurse who is a competent public speaker, with an intimate knowledge of the Nursing Profession, who will be charged with the duty of making known as widely as possible the advantages of the Council's Hospital Nursing Service as a career; an important part of her duty will be to deliver addresses for this purpose in co-operation with organisations and associations dealing with girls and young women throughout the United Kingdom. The successful applicant will in the first place be engaged for a period of three years at a salary of £500 a year, and travelling expenses. Marriage terminates the contract of service.

We always welcome the Annual Paper of the National Union of Trained Nurses, the Society which did gallant work for years in association with other self-governing

Associations of Nurses in support of the movement for State Registration of Nurses. This year Miss Eden announces a wonderful piece of news. "A former member of the Union—Mrs. Louisa Mackenzie Lawrence—has left the reversion of her estate to the E. M. Eden Benevolent Fund. It may be many years before the Fund can benefit at all, but the solicitor writes that ultimately the sum that will be paid over to the Fund should be about £5,000. This addition, with the income of the Mariabella Fry Fund, should some day give about £300 a year to expend on those who are in need. It is pleasant to reflect that the Fund has been almost entirely built up by the gifts of members of the Union, and that we have not been dependent on large donations from the lay world. We set out to build up the Union by the efforts of nurses themselves, and when all seemed lost the Benevolent Fund has realised a part of our dream, and our gratitude goes out to those who helped us. We must not forget that it may be years before we can help anyone by this last legacy, and we so much want to assist those who are in *present* need. I think that if we build the capital up to £1,000 we may rest content. We have now just over £900, so I shall be grateful if friends will help me to complete the £1,000 within the next year or two."

The Balance Sheet of the Mariabella Fry Fund from April 1st, 1929, to March 31st, 1930, shows that four grants, amounting to £52 6s. 4d., have been made, and that the balance at the bank and in petty cash is £16 6s.; and that of the E. M. Eden Memorial Fund shows that two grants, amounting to £32, have been made, and that the balance at the bank amounts to £6 16s. 2d.; so that that result of the work of the N.U.T.N. is still of great service to former members in need.

Miss G. Beckett, Chief Lady Superintendent of Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, in her report to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and the Members of the Central Committee, states that the Selection Committee at Home had a busy year as they selected and sent out 34 Nurses to meet the requirements of the Association, and 10 were recruited in India. If all goes well, its wants should be considerably less this year.

Unfortunately, 153 cases had to be refused owing to no Sister being available at the time the calls came. Miss Beckett says that she cannot speak too highly of the kindness shown by Mrs. Jones to the new Sisters on arrival in Bombay. She met all of them (34) last year, and looked after them from the time the boat arrived until they left Bombay by train. She has now gone home on leave, and the Committee can only hope that she will kindly continue this work on her return.

The Chief Lady Superintendent reports further that the question of accommodation in Delhi during the winter months is still a difficult one. The Government regrets its inability to help this year with a grant towards building a house in New Delhi, where the Sisters could be accommodated, but the New Capital Committee has already given a site for the necessary building. The conditions under which this land is leased to the Association necessitate their building on it within a space of three years. Being unable to do this, owing

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