

NURSING ECHOES.

During the past month the trained nurse, her hours on duty, pay, hardships, conditions of service and status (or the lack of it) have been discussed in the Press from nearly every angle. Almost exclusively, be it said, by members of the public, not by the nurses themselves, who, happy in their work, are surprised to learn how downtrodden they are alleged to be. A well-reasoned letter is that of Miss Isabel Macdonald, Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, in the *Scotsman* of August 20th, who, ever alert where the interests of her profession are concerned, has found time while taking a much-needed rest to discuss the suggestion that nurses should pay for their training, supported by a correspondent in a previous issue of the same paper, who, however, states that he has few qualifications for treating such admittedly difficult subjects, save the fact that during a prolonged illness, abroad and at home, he has been cared for by Scottish, English, Irish, Canadian, Australian, American, German and Danish nurses—not a mean qualification from an observer's point of view.

Miss Macdonald maintains that a general adoption of the proposal would not only give to the nurses better professional status, and also a less dependent position, but, such is human nature, it would lead the public and the nurses themselves to set a higher value on the great amount of highly scientific knowledge which they have to acquire. Furthermore, some such system would, in time, serve to attract into the profession women possessed of the mental equipment required for a profession pregnant with responsibility to, and influence on, the health and happiness of the human race.

Miss Macdonald further points out that the question of whether a nurse in training is a student, or merely a paid servant of the hospital, has need to be faced, and discusses the provision of the Nursing Profession (Wages and Hours) Bill, which the Nurses' organizations found it necessary to oppose.

Nurses are seldom wanting in physical courage but the situation in which Nurse Doris Roslyn Fisher found herself as described by her at the inquest on Captain George Septimus Kingsell and his wife, who were found shot in their house at Leigh, nr. Dorking, on August 11th might well make any woman blench. The evidence proved that Captain Kingsell first shot his wife, and then as the nurse ran upstairs he pointed

the revolver at her and said "Keep out of the way or I will do for you too." He then leaned over the banisters, and took aim at, and wounded, his stepson. "Meanwhile," said the nurse, "I carried on up the stairs, and just as I got to him he put the revolver to his cheek and shot himself. He did not kill himself with the first shot, which just ploughed through his cheek, and then we had a most terrific struggle for the revolver. I called for help but no one came. He seemed very strong. He had the strength of ten people, I could not get his hand away. He was too strong. He gave me a violent push, and just as I was pushed away he shot himself again. He fell on the landing and a few minutes afterwards he died."

The Coroner, Mr. Nightingale, in summing up said: "You may think that there is one bright spot in this terrible tragedy. That must be the conduct of the nurse. To go up those stairs at a time when this unfortunate man had already fired a shot at his son and one at himself, and to endeavour to dissuade him from shooting himself once more was an act of considerable bravery and remarkable pluck."

The whole profession will rejoice at the heroic conduct of Nurse Doris Fisher, and we beg to thank her in its name.

We have pleasure in giving publicity to the announcement that the memorial windows to the late Miss K. V. Macintyre (the former Matron) of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, will be unveiled in the Infirmary Chapel on Thursday, October 1st, 1931, at 2 p.m., by Mrs. Edward Lawrence (formerly Miss Elsie Rawcliffe) and dedicated by the Rev. W. E. Kingsbury.

A Reunion of Nurses will be held on the same day, and the Matron (Miss A. H. Wilford) will be pleased to welcome any Nurses who have been trained at the Infirmary. She will be glad to hear as soon as possible from those

desirous of attending if they require hospitality.

Once again the Park Swimming Club, Tottenham, held its Annual Gala in aid of the Prince of Wales General Hospital, Tottenham, which is an event of special interest to several of the London Hospitals on account of the Hospital Team Race, in which members of their nursing staffs compete for the Holmes Vase presented by the Prince of Wales Hospital. The teams competing this year were from the following hospitals: Charing Cross, Guy's, the Metropolitan, St. Thomas's, the London (holders), the Middlesex, St. Bartholomew's, and the Prince of Wales'. After a keen contest the



MISS DORIS ROSLYN FISHER.
Publicly commended for bravery and pluck.

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