

NURSING ECHOES.

When it became known that after a severe attack of bronchial influenza Margaret Breay—assistant Editor of this Journal for nearly forty years—had suffered a very serious collapse of health which necessitated removal to a nursing home in the care of skilled medical, and nursing attendants night and day, and that for some days extreme weakness laid her low, her wide circle of devoted colleagues were deeply grieved. But as the days passed, her extraordinary power of recuperation revived hope, and as we go to press we rejoice to report that she has come out of the shadows, and is daily, with increased tenacity, "taking hold." It is therefore to be hoped that her active mind may inspire the vitality so necessary to convalescence.

It does not seem possible that the nursing world can exist without the devoirs of "Saint Braikie," so here's to her speedy recovery and return to her own particular niche which no one else can fill.

A Special Meeting of the Council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing was held at 58, Victoria Street, S.W., to appoint a General Superintendent to succeed Miss A. M. Peterkin, C.B.E., who, as reported, is resigning in July after nearly 40 years' work in connection with the Institute.

After very careful consideration it was decided to appoint Miss Mercy Wilmshurst, S.R.N., who is at present Superintendent of the Metropolitan District Nursing Association in London.

Miss Wilmshurst was trained at St. George's-in-the-East Infirmary, London, 1907-1910, and holds its Certificate. She was registered in July, 1922, the first year the Register of Nurses was authorised and published by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

The Central Public Health Committee of the L.C.C., at its meeting on April 19th, reported that:—

"Pending consideration of the general questions involved, we have continued the practice of the late authorities in allowing officers to act as examiners for the General Nursing Council and to retain the fees paid to them if they had been permitted to retain them in the past. The officers involved are medical staff and matrons and senior grades of nursing staff. The work acts as a stimulus to the officers concerned, keeps them in touch with the needs of candidates preparing for the examinations and consequently increases the efficiency of their teaching at the hospitals. Particularly does this apply to the teaching of nurses. Regulations 640 and 641 provide, *inter alia*, for medical officers to retain the whole of the fees received by them for acting as examiners to outside authorities, *e.g.*, the General Nursing Council, and for whole-time medical officers to be granted additional leave with pay, not exceeding one week in each year, for the purpose of acting in that capacity. We consider that nursing staff should be accorded similar treatment. It is not considered that the proposal will involve any additional expenditure. The General Purposes Committee will make the necessary regulation. We recommend:—

"That nursing staff at hospitals and institutions allocated for use as hospitals under the management of

the Central Public Health Committee be allowed, subject to the medical officer of health being satisfied in each case that such a course is desirable in the interests of the service and to his specific permission being obtained, to act as examiners to outside authorities and to retain any fees received by them for so acting, and that whole-time nursing staff be granted additional leave with pay for not exceeding one week in each year for the purpose of acting in the capacity mentioned, any additional time beyond the period specified to be taken out of annual leave."

The prestige of acting as examiners for the General Nursing Council is certainly advantageous to the Medical and Nursing staffs employed by the London County Council, and we are pleased to note the arrangement is to be continued.

Una gives details of the opening of the memorial at Ararat to Nurse Edith Cavell, the tragedy of whose death will never be forgotten. A triangular Reserve in the city has been beautified and a Drinking Fountain erected thereon. The place is now a beauty spot, and at the opening the Mayor congratulated all those concerned on their achievement. The memorial, a very substantial structure holding the fount is surmounted by four modelled pillars bearing a cupola artistically moulded. The fountain is built of reinforced cement, and the graceful structure will be a permanent adornment of which the town may be justly proud. The fountain stands about 9 feet 6 inches over all, and is built on a bluestone base three feet six inches high, and is fitted with four hygienic drinking taps of the latest design. Set in front of the fountain is a marble slab bearing the inscription, "In Memory of Nurse Cavell, who gave her life in the Great War. 1915." The surroundings of the memorial are concreted with seats on either side, while entrance is gained to it and the reserve through artistically designed gates, the cemented entrance bearing the words, "Reserve. Edith Cavell." The reserve is laid out with lawns, with flower plots here and there, the whole producing a graceful architectural adornment to that part of the town.

We were charmed to receive "from the author," Professor Annie W. Goodrich, M.A., Dean of Yale University School of Nursing, "The Social and Ethical Significance of Nursing," a collection of addresses and papers "that portray the beliefs, aspirations, struggles, and sometimes achievements of recent, even contemporary, builders of the nursing profession, age old in its response to human needs, but only to-day evolving a science of human betterment." Everything that Dean Goodrich does or says is worthy of study, and there is a rich treat in store for those who obtain and study this book.

The Bulletin states:—

"Through a special committee on reclassification in Washington, and also through a sub-committee in the Women's Joint Congressional Committee, the American Nurses' Association has been working on the status of the nurse employed by certain departments of the Government (not the Army and Navy). About 3,000 nurses have been placed by the Classification Commission in a subprofessional grade. The American Nurses'

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