

NURSING ECHOES.

We wish to draw the attention of our readers to the very important correspondence on page 224, which has taken place between the College of Nursing and the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, on the educational and examination system in force under the present statutory rules.

We approve the reply of the General Nursing Council, which we believe will be generally accepted as proof of its sense of professional responsibility. Once abrogate its exclusive power of examination as qualifying for admission to the Register of Nurses, the Council can neither maintain educational or disciplinary standards.

We State Registrationists fought for, and won the right, of one portal to the Register, and unless this right is sacredly guarded by the General Nursing Council, it is inevitable that its authority will in time become obsolete.

We do not think this controversy would have arisen if the General Nursing Council had done as it is required to do under the Nurses' Registration Act and defined "a prescribed scheme of training" for nurses. The sooner the Council performs this essential duty the better.

Miss A. M. Peterkin's life's work for district nursing has, we note with pleasure, received yet another mark of appreciation upon her retirement. The Council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing met recently, by invitation of the Duke and Duchess of Portland, at 3, Grosvenor Square, at which the latter made a presentation to Miss Peterkin, and paid a tribute to her services to nursing and to humanity. The presentation took the form of an illuminated address from the members of the Council, which accompanied a cheque for £100.

Miss Peterkin, in thanking the council, said she was very honoured by the gifts and that they had been presented by the Duchess of Portland, and was greatly touched and moved by the kind words. She was the 389th nurse to be enrolled as a Queen's Nurse, and the number of the last nurse placed on the roll was 10,750, so that she had seen over 10,000 Queen's Nurses come and many of them go.

The Duchess of Portland then presented long service badges to the following Queen's Superintendents and Nurses who had recently completed 21 years' service under the Institute:—

Miss Jessie P. Watt (Inspector for Northern England), Miss Ada M. Bennett (Superintendent, Paddington Association), Miss Evelyn H. Furringer (Superintendent, Lancashire County Nursing Association), Miss Lilian R. Golds (Superintendent, Tipton District Nursing Association), Miss Marion W. Johnstone (Superintendent, Halifax District Nursing Association), Miss Bella R. Mackintosh (Superintendent, Dorset County Nursing Association), Miss Emily M. Tubbs (Superintendent, Reading District Nursing Association), Miss Catherine McDonald (Queen's Nurse, Kirkburton District Nursing Association), Miss Kathleen O'Grady (Queen's Nurse, Irish Branch), Miss Lily M. Tatton (Queen's Nurse, Stanwell District Nursing Association), Miss Alice M. Vaughan (Queen's Nurse, Hereford District Nursing Association), Miss Teresa S. Whiteside (Queen's Nurse, Irish Branch), and Miss Blanche

J. Whitmarsh (Queen's Nurse, Minehead District Nursing Association).

The Duke of Portland then announced that he had placed his resignation of the position of president in the hands of the Queen, and spoke of the great interest he had always taken and would continue to take in the Institute and its work. He announced that her Majesty had been graciously pleased to appoint the Earl of Athlone as president of the Institute as well as chairman of the council.

The Central Public Health Committee of the London County Council have recommended a scheme for additional contributions towards the funds of local nursing associations which has been approved.

The provisional scheme which has been evolved after negotiations with the authorities and associations concerned, includes the following provisions:—

(1) District nursing associations shall co-operate with the Council in dealing with cases for which care in the Council's hospitals is not essential.

(2) In consideration of the work undertaken by district nursing associations the Council shall pay to the Central Council for District Nursing in London a sum of £1,000 in respect of each of the two quarters ending December 31st, 1932, and March 31st, 1933, and thereafter such sums as the Council may determine at intervals of not less than six months in accordance with the terms of this arrangement.

(3) The Central Council shall distribute the sums paid to it by the Council to the nursing associations concerned... Regard may be had to nursing assistance for poor persons who, but for such assistance, might be expected to have become a charge on public rates.

(4) In reviewing the payments to be made by it the Council will have regard to the number of visits paid on its behalf in the previous six months by nursing associations.

The London County Council issued recently the report for the year 1931 of Sir Frederick Menzies as School Medical Officer. It is stated in the report that the steady progress recorded in the work of the school medical service in recent years was maintained, in spite of the urgent need for retrenchment in public expenditure which reached a climax in September.

Satisfaction is expressed that, in spite of the difficulties of the times, the excellent condition of the general health of the children in the L.C.C. schools is being maintained and that there is not the least decline perceptible in London in nutritional well-being.

In a comment on the campaign against the grosser conditions of neglect of personal hygiene which formerly obtained in the schools, the report states that although progressive improvement is still taking place every year it is more difficult to attain, now that the chronically dirty children have to be dealt with if further success is to be achieved. The results are a great tribute to the work of the school nurses, and it is added that it would be impossible to praise too highly the efforts of these devoted women who carry on their work unflinchingly in the face of much obloquy poured upon them by some of the rougher elements in the population.

We are glad to note this official recognition of the work of our School Nurses, which is of the utmost value

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