

## NURSING ECHOES.

At a recent meeting of the Council, Major-General the Earl of Athlone was re-elected Chairman of the Institute of District Nursing.

The Report of the work and statement of accounts for 1932 were approved for submission to the Queen as Patron of the Institute. The Report showed most satisfactory progress, and attention was drawn to the large number of nursing associations affiliated during the year. In Durham and Lancashire, where industrial conditions were so bad, 12 new associations had been formed. That was a striking testimony to the value of the work of the Queen's Nurses and of the appreciation of those who benefited from their services. There seemed every prospect of further steady development as the affiliation of 22 associations was reported since the last meeting of the Council in December last year.

The Council received with very great regret Miss Hardman's resignation of her post as inspector for London. At the request of the General Purposes Committee she had consented to continue her work until September of this year. In accordance with the revised inspection arrangements for England and Wales approved at the last meeting of the Council, an additional inspector, Miss Bingham, at present Superintendent of the Gloucester District Nursing Society, had been appointed.

Steps were being taken for the organisation of a County Nursing Association for Middlesex, and a public meeting was to be held at the end of March. It was hoped that that would lead to the provision of many more nurses, as the home nursing service was at present very inadequate.

The Committee responsible for the arrangements for the opening of gardens to the public reported several new developments, especially with a view to obtaining greater publicity. An illustrated list of gardens was to be published again this year, and it was hoped that it would be ready before Easter.

At the Annual Meeting of the Central Council for District Nursing in London, which was held at the Central Hall, the Report of the Executive Committee, in reviewing the progress of the movement throughout London, referred to the problem of the overcrowding of the out-patient departments of the hospitals, and the recommendations of the Special Committee of the King Edward's Hospital Fund that more use should be made of the district nursing services for out-patients who needed only such dressings or treatment as could be supplied by nurses. The question was referred by the Executive Committee of the Central Council to a Sub-Committee to see what assistance the nursing associations could render in this connection, and the claims they would have to make for further financial support.

The Annual Prize Distribution to the Nursing Staff and Opening of the Training Session, 1933, of the General Infirmary, Leeds, passed off very successfully on February 17th. It was held in the School of Medicine, and the prizes were presented by the Right Honble. Ethel, Baroness Beaumont.

Sir James Hinchcliffe, LL.D., J.P., gave an inspiring

address on what is expected of the nurses of the present day in the various branches of the nursing profession, particularly in district nursing. He pointed out that they must all remember that, although hard work was necessary during their training, even greater effort was needed later on in the positions they gained. He seemed to be very much impressed by the standard of knowledge now required of a nurse. The doctors were there in their academic robes, which added the dignity of the University, greatly appreciated by the Nursing Profession.

The Elizabeth Fisher Memorial Prize, awarded by the vote of the Sisters, was: First, Joyce J. Gatenby; Matron's Prize—Second, Norah Sunderland; and *Prox. Accessit*, Jessie Pickering.

The Eva Moynihan Gold Medal and Prize of £5 was awarded to Edith K. D. Maxwell Telling, D.N. (First Class Honours in Nursing, Anatomy, Physiology, Medicine, Surgery, Children's Diseases and Hygiene; Second Class Honours in Gynaecology and Obstetrics).

There was a long list of prize-winners. Altogether a day of great rejoicing for teachers and pupils, and congratulation for the Lady Superintendent (Miss E. S. Innes) and the Managers of the General Infirmary.

Miss S. F. Rossiter, the Assistant Matron and Sister Tutor, writes in a recent issue of the Nurses' League Journal of the Royal Infirmary, Preston, on "The General Nursing Council Election," December, 1932.

She has much of value to say, which makes one greatly regret that she was not elected to a seat on our Governing Body.

Miss Rossiter tells us that she "stood as an independent, purely from a sense of duty and loyalty to those who had fought so strenuously for self-government and professional democracy, and for the portal examination, which although not flawless, is surely the only system by which we can maintain self-government, and control of the profession by the profession.

"Times change and we with time"—and these changes certainly contribute to some legitimate dissatisfaction with the present era of nursing, but why place all the onus on the system of training and examinations, and ruthlessly scrap a machinery that has taken years to establish, and is only just beginning to bear fruit?

"Shortage of suitable material in some of the smaller hospitals has certainly fanned the fumes of discontent, and is a very real problem, although I believe national economic conditions and overcrowding in other professions is rapidly rectifying this difficulty.

"Again, conditions pertaining in some of the hospitals so handicapped, will never attract the right type—this is not the fault of the system of examination, and change in that system will in no way remedy these local defects. The solution of this problem surely lies in inspection of Training Schools, and withholding of State recognition until conditions of training are acceptable.

"Why do the smaller hospitals struggle for recognition in spite of severe handicaps? Obviously to obtain staff. And if economic reasons do not permit Hospital Boards to conform to conditions requisite for efficient training, then surely they are not justified in undertaking the care of the sick. This duty will then devolve upon the larger Voluntary and Municipal Hospitals, who in a great

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