

NURSING ECHOES.

The vicissitudes of the G.N.C. have been many and various, and no doubt may some day be presented to the profession, but for the moment a par. may be written about Headquarters, which Registered Nurses may view with pride, situated as it is at 20 and 22, Portland Place, W.1, in dignified houses of Regency period. We specially admire its substantial appearance, portico, old-fashioned verandah and balconies, which latter are of delicate ironwork of very elegant construction, and it is well to know that Registered Nurses possess both houses, so that at last they may feel at home, that is, unless the long tentacles of the B.B.C. curl still further along the street and possess themselves of the whole block, adding, alas, to the monstrous construction already erected. Should this sad day ever arrive, no doubt a good bargain would be effected, and thus the G.N.C. be enabled to build Headquarters to meet the needs of every department with the least waste of time and money.

When the first Council was appointed in 1920 by the then Minister of Health, the Right Hon. Christopher Addison, a room was courteously placed at our disposal at the Ministry, and it was there that much of the basic organisation of the Council's work was effected and the first Statutory Rules drafted.

Then the Registrationists thirsted for more appropriate quarters, and ventured to suggest that the very moderate mansion, now occupied by the Ladies' Pioneer Club, in Cavendish Place, W., might for the time being meet our needs; but bounding ambition (and, incidentally, knowledge of our own affairs) was nipped in the bud by the young official, who for some unknown reason had Registered Nurses and Midwives in tow, and "Mrs. Fenwick's Palace" was ruled out. We then were permitted to lease little No. 12, York Gate, and the late Princess Christian attended on the opening day and gave it her blessing. Here in constricted space the vast and ever-growing work of the G.N.C. was carried on under difficulties for a few years, and then, bursting all bounds (thousands of nurses availing themselves of the right to register) and after the time of grace more thousands presenting themselves for examination, a move to more adequate quarters was made at last to 20, Portland Place, and recently the greater part of No. 22 has been utilised. No doubt the future will need a building designed for the work of what has already become, in fourteen years, one of the largest bodies of registered professional women in the kingdom.

And all through the thirty years' struggle for legal status for Nurses we were advised by pundits that "there is no demand for State Registration of Nurses"!

Already a staff of between fifty and sixty professional and clerical workers are employed in the Education and Registration Departments, and the Nurses provide an income of upwards of £30,000 annually to cover the cost of the work. We do not wonder that the Teaching profession is anxious to participate in the expenditure of this princely income.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, the Earl of Athlone was

re-appointed as Chairman, and Sir William Hale-White as Vice-Chairman.

The report and the statement of accounts for the year 1933 were approved for submission to the Queen.

Dr. Shadwell's resignation of the Chairmanship of the Nursing Committee was received by the Council with great regret.

An Organiser of Provident schemes has been appointed, and will be available to assist Nursing Associations who wish to reorganise their financial arrangements on a provident subscription basis.

At the end of 1933 ninety-four retired Queen's Nurses were receiving annuities from the Long Service Fund.

The names of 124 nurses have been placed on the Roll of Queen's Nurses since the meeting of the Council in December, and twelve Nursing Associations have been affiliated.

The sum of approximately £524 has been contributed through the Queen's Nurses to the proposed Florence Nightingale Memorial Foundation, which it is hoped will be formally established in London in July next. The appeal, which has had such a generous response, was initiated by the Association of Queen's Superintendents in connection with the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, to which it is affiliated.

The London County Council is anxious to improve the domestic organisation in connection with hospitals under its control and under a new scheme six Registered Nurses will be selected to undergo a course of training for the new diploma in dietetics at King's College and the College of Nursing.

The Council will pay the fees (£30 each) and allow full pay to the Nurses during the course, and we believe it is contracted that the students remain in the service of the Council after receiving their Diplomas for three years. No doubt, also, provision will be made to refund this public money, should students fail to keep their contract.

Great sympathy is being felt by Guy's Nurses, both inside and outside the hospital, at the very serious loss some of their colleagues on the hospital's staff have sustained. It would appear that upon a promise of high dividends (seven to ten per cent.) upon the part of a responsible official in the Treasurer's Office, quite a number of Sisters entrusted him with their hard-earned savings, and that upon demand the money was not forthcoming.

We have no doubt the Governors of Guy's Hospital will know how to deal wisely and generously with this matter.

Will the Nurses be reimbursed for their grievous losses? Not with public funds, of course. We realise the Governors are not responsible for how the staff invests their money, but we feel sure they will realise the necessity of now instituting a strict rule that no official under their direction shall handle money for investment or have any financial transactions with the members of the nursing staff, the majority of whom know little of business and can be easily misled.

One thing is certain, these hard-working women

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