

## NURSING ECHOES.

The Annual Report of the Council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing to Her Majesty Queen Mary refers to the successful working of the provident subscription system which is proving of great value in helping the existing Nursing Associations and in the formation of new ones, particularly in the counties of Glamorgan, Durham and Cumberland. "The way in which the provident subscriptions have been maintained, even in the areas where the distress is most acute, is a striking testimony to the value in the eyes of the community of the service given by the nurses.

"The chief need for additional nurses is in the cities and towns, and this is probably due to the fact that it is only recently that the possibility of adopting the provident subscription method of support for such areas has been recognised. The experience of the last few years has shown that Associations organised on this system have not only found a solution of their financial difficulties, but have been able to extend their service as a result of the wider knowledge of the work.

"There has been an alteration in the inspection arrangements. In future only one report will be returned to the Associations each year on the result of the Inspectors' visits and a shortened form of report has been approved for the second visit in the year. The regulations governing the appointment of Superintendents have been revised and the status of Superintendent will, as a general rule, not be given unless there is a staff of six, including the Superintendent, instead of five, as formerly. This regulation will result in the more frequent inspection of the smaller Homes, as the Association is only inspected once a year where there is a Superintendent.

"Miss Farrant, Inspector of County Nursing Associations, resigned during the year. She was enrolled as a Queen's Nurse in 1910 and her service as Queen's Nurse, County Superintendent and Inspector has been greatly appreciated. A special debt is due to her for her valuable work in connection with the Survey of District Nursing."

The work throughout Scotland during the past year has been maintained at a high level, and the committee state it is gratifying to report that the number of Associations employing Queen's Nurses has been increased.

By request the Scottish Council has agreed to provide motor-driving instruction in cases where it is not possible for this to be given locally. While the Council will bear the cost of the necessary tuition and the Nurse will be maintained in the Home, the local Associations will be asked to pay the personal salary of the Nurse during the period she is undertaking the instruction.

An interesting item in the Irish Section of the Report concerns a Pageant organised by Miss Montgomery and a number of friends. The romantic history of the founding of Grey Abbey, Co. Down, a Cistercian Monastery founded in the twelfth century, was presented at six performances in the actual grounds and ruins of the Abbey, and only the rather inclement weather in Belfast prevented a very much larger attendance. All who were present considered this to be one of the finest Pageants ever witnessed, because the surroundings were ideal and the performers so keenly interested in their different

characters. After paying all expenses the gratifying result of £156 5s. 1d. was handed by Miss Montgomery to the Executive Committee, who divided it between the Nurses' Pension Fund and the Lady Londonderry Nursing Scheme Fund.

The Lady Londonderry Nursing Scheme Fund, it is stated, continues to be invaluable, making it possible for Queen's Nurses to be maintained in really necessitous areas.

The Report of the Mariabella Fry Benevolent Fund, and the Evelyn Mary Eden Memorial Benevolent Fund, established in connection with the National Union of Trained Nurses before its dissolution, shows that these Funds are fulfilling a beneficent purpose. The former, which operates under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, has made grants amounting to £50 during the year ending March 31st, 1936, to late members of the N.U.T.N., and the latter grants amounting to £62 to three late members of the N.U.T.N.

Grants are given in case of illness only. Those eligible to make application are former members of the N.U.T.N. whose names were on the books at the time of dissolution as having paid their subscriptions in either 1921, 1922 or 1923, and whose income from all sources does not exceed £200. Application for grants must be made in February or March of each year. The Hon Secretary of the administrative body is Miss Kennedy, 6, Berkeley Square, Clifton, Bristol. So the good work of the N.U.T.N. goes on, conducted by Nurses for Nurses, inspired by its Founder, Miss E. I. C. Eden, who has given devoted service to its members.

Nurse Gifford, of the County Hospital, Dartford, is to attend the next meeting of the Dartford District Public Assistance Committee, to receive its congratulations for a brave act which saved the life of a laboratory technician at the hospital.

The technician was at work in the hospital, when a bottle of ammonia exploded, knocking him unconscious and temporarily blinding him.

Nurse Gifford heard the noise of the explosion, and, regardless of the fact that the air was almost unbreathable, rushed to the man's assistance. She soaked a towel in water, threw it round his face, and dragged him from the room.

The Fourth European Mental Hygiene Reunion is to be held under the auspices of the National Council for Mental Hygiene in the Conference Room of the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W., from October 5th-8th. The Official Opening of the Reunion by the President, H.R.H. the Duke of Kent, K.G., will take place at 2.30 p.m., on October 5th, and the Second Session to be held at 10.30 a.m. on October 6th when the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Feversham will preside should be of special interest to nurses as it is to be devoted to the subject of "Mental Hygiene and the Nurse." The speakers announced are medical experts from Germany, Spain, Austria and Sweden. The inclusive fee admitting to all Sessions of the Reunion, advance copies of the translated proceedings and participation in social events is £1 1s. Application for tickets and all enquiries should be sent to the Secretary, National Council for Mental Hygiene, 76-77, Chandos House, Palmer Street, London, S.W.1.

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