

### NURSING ECHOES.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 124 Nurses to be Queen's Nurses, to date January 1st, 1936. From Training Homes in England 91, in Wales 6. in Scotland 21, in Ireland 6. Total 124.

The Hospitals and Medical Services Committee reported to the London County Council at its meeting on February 25th that, in connection with the scheme for the training of probationer nurses, which provides for central final examinations to be held twice yearly, on the results of which gold and silver medals and certificates (pass and distinction) are awarded, the result of the examinations for 1935 is that one gold medal, two silver medals and 55 distinction certificates have been gained. These medals and certificates will be presented to the successful nurses in the Conference Hall on 12th March, 1936, at 4 p.m., when the Right Hon. the Chairman of the Council (the Lord Snell, C.B.E., J.P.) has kindly consented to make the presentations. Representatives of all grades of the Nursing Staff will attend.

In a recent issue we referred to an appeal made for financial support to enable the authorities of the Papworth Village Settlement to establish a Home for nurses suffering from tuberculosis.

It is with pleasure that we have received from the Matron, Miss K. L. Borne, a notification that "the hope of the past has become the dawn of the future."

Papworth has decided without further delay to build a very special house, and is fortunate in securing an Honorary Architect, H. H. Dunn, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., who has kindly designed a beautiful Home, thus providing a much needed half-way stage from sickness to health and "duty" for ex-sanatorium patients. The house will be situated in beautiful surroundings near the Nurses' Home. There are to be 40 bedrooms, together with dining-room and lounge.

Here adequate after-care, together with work either in the nursing field, or other suitable occupation will be available in the settlement, *with remuneration*. All workers will be paid according to their rank, and the Medical Officers will prescribe the hours of work.

It is hoped that the public will respond liberally towards the cost of the Home, which is expected to be rather less than £20,000.

There is, however, a large problem looming ahead even of such a scheme. What is to become of the nurse who is no longer able to work even under these special conditions, and consequently is unable to earn?

"I believe," Miss Borne writes, "we shall continue to find, as we have done for the past five years, that nurses are able to keep well in spite of a certain amount of disease—*provided* shortened hours and the right conditions are available, but, with advancing years and the risk to health every nurse must take, comes a time for the 'long rest' in a special hospital. *This* is a very real problem."

Those who desire to help Miss Borne to solve this urgent problem should write to her at Papworth Village Settlement, Papworth Hall, Cambridge. She will be

happy to receive any donations either large or small, either for the Building or Endowment Fund.

The Council of the Edith Cavell Homes of Rest for Nurses state in their annual report, recently issued, that messages of gratitude have been received, testifying to the benefit and pleasure which nurses derived from their visits.

The home at Coombe Head, Haslemere, received during the year 164 nurses, the duration of visits averaging 17 days. The home at Crossways, Windermere, received 163 nurses, with an average stay of 17 days; and the home at The Hollies, West Norwood, received 149 nurses, with an average stay of 15 days.

The Council again appeal for annual contributions, if only of small amounts. Support by way of donations, they state, is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain, although additional revenue is essential.

Elizabeth Fry was so intimately connected with nurses and so impressed with the work of Pastor and Friederike Fliedner at Kaiserswerth, where she visited them, that it must interest many nurses to know that St. Stephen's Church, Upton Park, East Ham, which was built in the grounds of her house at Plashet as a memorial to her, is keeping the jubilee of its consecration next year. She was associated with the founding of the Institution of Nursing Sisters in Devonshire Square, and of St. John's House so long located in Norfolk Street, Strand, and latterly in Queen Square, Bloomsbury, the nurses of which, from its establishment in 1848 have, under various directorates, maintained a high standard of professional work and also its vocational aspect.

The Rev. Charles E. Butterfield, Vicar of the parish, will welcome any help towards necessary renovations, so that these may be completed for the celebration of the jubilee in March, 1937.

Mr. M. Meehan, who has taken up the Secretaryship of a large Hospitals Assurance Association, which brings him into contact with the government and staffing of many County, Municipal and Voluntary Hospitals, writes, says *The Mental Hospital Workers' Journal*, to urge the National Executive Council and members of the Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union to seek to abolish the R.M.P.A. Certificate and to concentrate upon the State Registration by Certificate of all mental nurses. He suggests that the highest degree of efficiency is needed if the mental nursing service is not to be classed as a semi-skilled occupation. Medical practitioners having to devote a great deal of time to clerical work arising from Health Insurance, Industrial and Compensation laws, etc., are beginning to realise that they are doing a large share of State duty without enjoying the privilege of State recognition, and undoubtedly State control of General and Mental hospitals will receive more favourable consideration in the near future. Mr. Meehan asks: "If State control of mental hospitals becomes operative, will the R.M.P.A. Certificate be regarded as a sufficient qualification for proficiency?" He suggests that the State Registered and Certificated nurses will be the only ones recognised as proficient in State-controlled hospitals, and appeals to the young and

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