

NURSING ECHOES.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain will be summoned to be held on Tuesday, April 18th, at 2.30 p.m., in the Kent Room, Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, Victoria Street, S.W.1, which, it is hoped, will be found convenient for attendance.

The College of Nursing Responsible.

It is well that the Registered Nurses should realise the present professional position, and grasp the fact that the College of Nursing is primarily responsible for the Recommendation submitted by the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services in its Interim Report, that a Roll should be compiled and maintained by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales of women unable to qualify for the State Register.

That clears up any ambiguity on the question, and organisations of Registered Nurses who realise the value of legal status and who have conformed to the requirements of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, who have, after a strenuous three years' term of hospital training, and whose knowledge and efficiency has been tested by a Preliminary and a Final Examination, will surely realise that to support the suggestion of the College of Nursing is to commit professional suicide and face economic ruin.

No specious arguments in favour of a second grade of nurses who are unable to attain the minimum standard of professional education and efficiency required by the General Nursing Council will render such women safe attendants on the sick, and those who guarantee them as such will assume a responsibility for which sooner or later the unfortunate patient will pay dearly in disaster and maybe death.

U.S.A. Calls for High Quality Service.

The Bulletin, published by The American Nurses' Association, in its January issue, gives "A Cue for 1939," and quoting from the Editorial of *The American Journal of Nursing*, suggests that "Needed more Nursing Service," be our slogan for 1939. Its leading article points out that a new emphasis placed on *quality* of Nursing Service, is one of the most significant trends of to-day. Put the two together, and we have our cue for this New Year: To supply more nursing service of a high quality to those who need it. This involves preparation and service distribution.

"We also would emphasise that the nursing of the future must be for ever in the up-grade if our work is to be worthy of its fine possibilities in the service of mankind. Let us take heed therefore that expediency and ignorance shall be determinedly opposed when they venture to dictate a course of deterioration in our standards of service."

We implore Registered Nurses to take this conscientious advice to heart at this crisis and repudiate expediency and ignorance.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Queen's Institute, the Earl of Athlone was re-appointed chairman. The report for the year 1938 was agreed upon for

submission to Queen Mary, the patron of the Institute. This report shows that 507 Queen's Nurses were enrolled during the year for work in England and Wales, an increase of 87 on the average number enrolled during the previous five years. At the end of 1938 there were 8,354 nurses working in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales under 2,182 county and district nursing associations affiliated to the institute. Approximately, the report shows, 1,000 more nurses were needed to complete the service and, while every effort was being made to attract nurses to take up work for the Institute, it was realised that there was a shortage of trained nurses in every branch of the profession.

The council expressed its appreciation of the valuable help given by the national gardens scheme, which raised the record sum of £15,245 for the Queen's Institute and the nursing associations in England and Wales during 1938.

The Queen's Nurses with their valuable training and resulting skill are a national asset. We believe an adequate pension, before they are too old to enjoy it, would be an immense encouragement in a recruiting scheme.

The Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul, now under construction in Washington, is to have a beautiful stained glass window dedicated to the memory of Florence Nightingale and to the "glorification of nursing." The window will be placed in the north transept and its various medallions will have as their subjects "Childhood," "Education," "Hospitals," "The Crimea," "St. Thomas's," "London," and "Notes on Nursing." All of these symbolise various phases of Miss Nightingale's career. At the tops of the lancets are figures holding symbols of Faith, Science, Charity and Hope.

Nurses in Western Australia are very progressive people, and fully alive to their professional responsibility. At a recent meeting of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee, it was decided that the scholarship for the year 1939-40 should be awarded to Miss M. R. Campbell, a trainee of the Perth and King Edward Memorial Hospitals. This is the first of these scholarships to be awarded in this State.

Miss Campbell is a trainee of Perth Hospital, where she served as a staff nurse on the completion of her training. She then became a member of the staff of a private hospital, and remained there until entering the King Edward Memorial Hospital to gain her midwifery certificate. At present she is completing her infant welfare course at this institution.

After the year's course in London, Miss Campbell will return to Western Australia to fill an appointment as Sister Tutor at the King Edward Memorial Hospital at Perth.

Next year is the centenary of New Zealand, so they are asking Australian soldiers and sisters to join them on April 25th, Anzac Day—probably a special ship will be chartered to take the party from Sydney to Wellington, and guests will be entertained for two weeks. New Zealand is such a very wonderful country and the people so hospitable.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)