

NURSING ECHOES.

For a wonder the King and Queen enjoyed a little Easter holiday, at Windsor, together with the two Princesses—to be separated so much from their children is indeed a great sacrifice, devoted parents as they are—but a few days at glorious Windsor now that the Spring is here is worth its time in gold. It will be well that we should not take the devoted service of the Sovereigns for granted; we are indeed fortunate for their example in these days of stress.

The Minister of Health has appointed Miss Zoe L. Puxley, O.B.E., to be an Assistant Secretary (Acting) of the Ministry of Health.

This would appear one more opportunity lost of recognising the value of a Registered Nurse in the national health scheme of the Ministry. The profession of Nursing has been recognised by Act of Parliament since 1919, and attains its majority this year, and yet its status remains unrecognised by the Government Department which is responsible to the nation for evolution in higher standards of national health.

The Medical Profession is recognised as indispensable in this connection, and would do well to press for honourable recognition of the associated profession of Nursing, without the trained skill of which much of its fine work for the people would be impossible.

Moreover, Miss Zoe Puxley as a representative of the Ministry of Health on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, has naturally supported its reactionary policy—the abolition of the one portal to the Register, and the proposed recognition by the State of semi-trained uncertified women as Assistant Nurses, in competition with the efficiently trained, examined, approved Registered Nurse, and to add insult to injury, it is recommended that this economic depreciation be controlled by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, in the official Headquarters which the Registered Nurses have financed to the last penny!

Quite frankly, we do not think a more grossly unjust proposition could have evolved from the brain of a Nazi. It remains to be seen if the Registered Nurses will permit their Governing Body, the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, through pressure from the Ministry of Health, to get away with it.

Certainly it will not be done without a public protest.

As we have stated before, the public has a right to employ who ever it chooses to attend it in sickness and in health. But the Government has no mandate or right in this connection to sacrifice the legal status of the State Registered Nurse in its contempt for the standard of women's professional work.

Miss Dunkley, S.R.N., is now Chairman of the Guild of Nurses. She will well realise how necessary it is to organise in support of economic security after the injustice with which she was treated in her last Matronship.

Those of us who live in London are in warm sympathy with our allies the French in their determination "To get

on with the War." We cannot tolerate the changed aspect of our splendid metropolis, and long to see it once more enriched with thriving merchandise and sparkling with light. Sooty sandbags are a hideous eyesore, and we should imagine window-cleaners have ceased to exist.

Passing through Manchester Square we naturally glanced at Florence Nightingale International House. Alas! once so spic and span inside and out, it turned blind eyes to the world in general. A placard notifying that it was "To let—or the lease sold" caused a pang of sincere regret. It seemed almost incredible that this fine work for international friendship and learning had ceased to function. How happy a community under the genial management of Miss Dorsey! Gone with the wind! It did not seem possible that the malignity of war could clutch and suppress the happy community at this centre from which such far reaching amenities radiated all over the world.

We just hurried away!

Then two days later we met a skilled and admirable lady whose work was of such great clerical value at International House. Yes! Sad indeed the closing down of good work—but she *felt* sure it would all be reawakened after the end of the War—and meanwhile the fine house must be occupied, if possible, for the duration for other work. She had recently heard from Miss Dorsey, who was very happy at home in U.S.A. engaged in lecturing, etc.

That was cheering news.

The tentative Programme of the Biennial Convention of the American Nurses' Association, together with the League of Nursing Education and National Organisation for Public Health Nursing, which is to take place at Philadelphia from May 12th to 17th next appears in the *American Journal of Nursing*. All joint sessions will be held in Convention Hall. Miss Julia C. Stimson, President A.N.A., will preside at the Joint Opening Session.

We note there is to be a Historical Pageant.

Many of those whose names are well known "on this side" are taking part in the Conference.

A PRECIOUS GIFT.

Recently a friend sent us a precious gift, a lovely little book, entitled "Gardens in Sun and Shade," by M. Aumonier, Keats's House at Hampstead, in colour, on the cover. We venture to quote one of the charming lyrics.

TAKE ALL THE SORROWS.

Take all the Sorrows of thy sorrowing Heart
And fold them in the Flowers that God has given.
Within the Scented Silence rest apart,
And to the Garden thou shalt find a Heaven.

Take all the tears of Yesterday's despair,
And all the tragedy of tearless pain,
For Peace, more kind than Love, is waiting there
To woo thy suffering soul to hope again.

Take all the memories of shadowed hours
And lose them in the fragrant garden ways,
Glad harmonies of birds and bees and flowers
Will change thy sighing into hymns of praise.

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