

## NURSING ECHOES.

The International Council of Nurses is indeed fortunate, during this conflagration in Europe, to be handled from across the Atlantic in so sympathetic a manner by its President, Dean Effie Taylor, and the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain is, we feel sure, fully alive to the debt it owes her.

We have studied with great interest and pleasure "Thirty Fruitful Years," the story of the American Journal of Nursing. It once again emphasises the principle that to be of any real value to a profession its organ should be published *by* its members and not *for* them. We recently received the "Story of the American Journal of Nursing," and regretted that it did not contain a portrait of the first and very valiant Editor, Miss Sophia F. Palmer, R.N.

"Thirty Fruitful Years" contains this portrait, from which we are able to realise the calm force of character which inspired this wonderful woman. We met her in the States in 1901, when the new Century was celebrated in Buffalo by a very fine Exhibition, at which many nurses foregathered, and of which details will be found recorded in past issues of this journal.

Sophia Palmer was the type of woman with staying power, and proved her metal by retaining the onerous position of Editor of the American Nurses' National Organ for 20 years. It was a splendid bit of service, not only to her compatriots, but to the nurses of the world.

We are pleased to hear that the call for Registered Nurses by the Military Nursing Services is receiving a loyal response. We hope that having emphasised the national value of their skill and status, the powerful influence of Government Departments which employs them will stand firmly in support of their rights and privileges, should a tug of war come in the future with powerful agents for depreciation of nursing skill and status.

Members of the Military Nursing Services, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and Territorial Army Nursing Service have since their formation had officers' status and since 1926 relative

military rank was officially recognised for them as follows: Matron-in-chief, colonel; principal matron, lieutenant-colonel; matron, major; sister, lieutenant.

Since the entry of so many women to the Services it has been felt that the rank markings of the nursing services should come into line with other women officers. All members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and Territorial Army Nursing Service and reserves are therefore offered emergency commissions in these two Services, to be gazetted as Sisters, equivalent rank as above and with immediate acting or temporary rank held by each member at present. They are now wearing relative rank badges.

Members will be allowed to serve on after marriage. Relegation to the unemployed list will be possible on compassionate grounds.

Enrolment does not necessarily mean immediate military service. Present employment can be continued until services are required, when adequate posting notice is given.

Efforts to bridge the gap between the time girls leave school to when they are old enough to enter hospitals, are referred to in the report, recently issued, of the Nursing Recruitment Centre.

Although the Nursing Recruitment Centre has only been in existence just over a year, being financed by the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, over 450 applications have been received from girls of 15 or 16 who would not normally be ready for hospital training for at least two years.

The report states: "If the nursing register goes on growing at this rate of five or six a day, it will total over 1,000 names by the end of the year, and more than double that number by the end of next year."

The Centre sends these candidates leaflets on nursing, lists of pre-nursing courses and individual advice about the best means of bridging the gap. It aims at keeping in touch with them until they are old enough to apply for hospital training.

Over 600 among thousands of inquirers have gone into training as a result of the work of the Centre. In presenting the report Lord Luke refers to the shortage of nurses, adding "Extra remuneration alone will not produce the right type of nurse. It has to be explained that nursing is a vocation as well as a profession, and our energetic organising secretary and a panel of



MISS SOPHIA F. PALMER, R.N.  
First Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal  
of Nursing, 1900-1920.

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