

## NURSING ECHOES.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of eighty new Queen's Nurses to date from 1st October, 1942. Fifty-six for service in England, three in Wales, and twenty-one in Scotland. It is well to know that so many well-trained nurses are available in the service of the poor in Urban and Rural districts, as their skill is invaluable.

It has now been officially notified that members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and the Territorial Army Nursing Service will, in future, be termed "Nursing Officers."

The war has thrown up many great problems, but none are greater than mobilising the man-and-woman-power of the nation, and it has been found that unless some provision was made for children, mothers could not help to replace men for the Forces. Thus war nurseries have been well organised and made available for mothers to leave their children, knowing that they will be well cared for. The success of these nurseries is to be seen, not only in the eagerness with which mothers are quick to use them, but also in the evidence that children themselves benefit from the care and opportunities provided. The young women caring for the children gain valuable experience, and we are glad to learn that the knowledge of Registered Nurses is highly appreciated in running the nurseries. A thousand nurseries have been opened in England.

The last class of workers who should be called upon to fire-watch are nurses in active attendance on the sick, and we are glad to know that nurses or probationers between 20 and 45, engaged whole-time in attending the sick, are eligible for exemption from compulsory fire-watching.

They are, however, liable if they work at premises—a hospital or otherwise—where fire-watching under the Business Premises Order is compulsory.

If fire-watching at these premises is voluntary, only voluntary nurses are liable, and they may withdraw on seven days' notice.

They may also claim exemption from compulsory enrolment if they carry out fire-watch duties under the Business Premises Order.

Nurses in private practice must satisfy the local authority—if they want exemption—that they work whole time on sick nursing.

The "Daddy Mamas" in the Government, whose time does not appear overburdened with work, propose that women (why only women?) should not wear hats or gloves. The former deprivation could be met by scarves or by tying the head up in a bag, but the latter proposal is not only insanitary but a danger to health.

How about scabies and other dirt diseases? Surely every time one handles bus props or other objects touched by unwashed persons who are apparently ubiquitous in our public vehicles, one runs the danger of contagion. Whatever other garment one finds it decent to dispense with, gloves are hygienically necessary and should be worn. If made of knitted wool they can be washed and last for months. A kind friend has

provided us with neat, well-fitting gloves: no dirt diseases for us if a little common-sense can prevent it. Whenever men begin interfering with women's personal affairs they are sure to come a howler.

We note that the Royal Sanitary Institute held a Sessional Meeting in London on October 21st, when a discussion on "Scabies" was opened by (a) Henry MacCormac, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician for Diseases of the Skin, Middlesex Hospital; (b) Thomas Standring, M.D., D.P.H., Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Woolwich; and (c) Major C. G. Johnson, R.A.M.C. No doubt there was a large attendance. The devastating outbreak of this disease in Scotland last year took months to control.

A former Rotherham district nurse, Miss E. M. Dee, who retired to the village of Willingham, near Gainsborough, in 1922, and died in June this year, has devised her beautiful house in the village to the local nursing association. Miss Dee associated herself with almost every organisation in Willingham. The house will be the home of the local district nurse.

Miss Mary Cleghorn Munro, of Edinburgh, left personal estate in Great Britain valued at £17,938. She left her residence to the Queen's Institute of District Nurses (Scottish Branch, Edinburgh) in recognition of its great value to the community.

As there have been two cases recently in Edinburgh diagnosed as small-pox, Dr. W. G. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, has advised all medical practitioners concerned to be on their guard, particularly with reference to any suspected cases of chickenpox, and if in any doubt, to report suspected cases at once. Nurses would be wise to act on this advice.

Glasgow Corporation gave a civic reception recently to 350 representatives of the medical services in the city who assisted in stamping out the recent smallpox epidemic. Lord Provost Biggar welcomed the guests.

Matron Jean Kidd, Robroyston Hospital, where the patients were treated, disclosed that all her nursing staff volunteered to attend the victims and the nurses had been practically isolated for three months.

We offer the warmest congratulations to all concerned,

School nurses in Aberdeen will now visit pupils in their homes. This is a result of a reorganisation of the school medical service, reported by the Physical Care Committee to Aberdeen Education Committee recently.

Duties of health visitors and school nurses have been amalgamated. The city has been divided into 14 districts with a nurse in each, who will do home visitation as well as duties in the schools. The medical officer, who has done the reorganisation, has expressed confidence that the new system will result in an improvement in the school medical service.

The great Biennial Meeting of the Canadian Nurses' Association, held in Montreal, was a thrilling success; the outstanding feature, as reported in the *Canadian Nurse*, was its unity in both a national and an international sense. "Never before" have the French-speaking members of the Association taken such an active part in its deliberations. "Never before have we had the privilege of counting both the President of the Inter-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)