

NURSING ECHOES.

In our advertisement columns an official notice appears of a Presentation to be made by the past members of the Staff to Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., who is resigning her office as Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, after upwards of 30 years' service in the hospital. We feel sure her wide circle of pupils and friends, past members of the Staff will be pleased to communicate with Miss B. Quantick, Assistant Matron, Charing Cross Hospital, on the matter and avail themselves of the privilege of participating in the presentation.

Two grants of £1,000 each have been made by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London to assist in the establishment of two group preliminary training schools for nurses. One of the schools has been set up in Hampstead to serve a North London group of hospitals, and the other at Blackheath to serve a group in South and East London. Additional financial assistance has been assured these two schools during the next three years should such further help be necessary.

The King's fund has announced that it is prepared to consider similar schemes by other groups of hospitals in its area, and is prepared to make grants up to a total of £5,000 for this year, with assurance of continued help for three years in case of need.

Prospective recruits to the nursing profession wishing to enter a group preliminary training school can obtain further particulars from the Nursing Recruitment Centre, 21, Cavendish Square, W.1.

The latest advertisement being scattered far and wide at great cost by the Ministry of Labour is headed: "Please tell me more about Nursing; here are some of the things I should like to know." And then follow a number of questions—based on grab—as follows:—

"Are free uniforms provided for student nurses?"

"Is the training free?"

"What cash allowances are payable during training?"

"Is the cash allowance subject to any deduction for living expenses?"

"Are nurses entitled to an annual holiday?"

Could anything be more typical of the Bevin policy at the Ministry of Labour as provided by his National Council for the Recruitment of Nurses?

What type of Student Nurse would respond to such questions—all of which are of course answered in the affirmative.

Not one word of Duty to the Sick.

We presume applicants will realise that suffering human beings are in need of sympathetic service.

A total number of 100,486 student nurses were enrolled in the 1,304 State accredited schools of nursing in the United States on January 1st, 1943, according to information just released by the Department of Studies of the National League of Nursing Education.

This enrolment exceeds by 9,029 the number of students enrolled in schools of nursing on January 1st, 1942.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ARMY NURSE CORPS, U.S.A.

From *The American Journal of Nursing* we learn that Lieutenant-Colonel Florence A. Blanchfield has succeeded Colonel Julia O. Flikke as Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps of the United States of America. She has wide general and military nursing experience, having been assigned to duty in the Office of the Surgeon-General of the Army. In March, 1943, she was commissioned lieutenant-colonel in the Army of the United States and assigned as first assistant to the Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps.

THE PASSING OF THE Q.A.I.M.N.S.

A TRUE ANECDOTE.

The following was the experience of a State Registered Nurse who went to the nearest Ministry of Labour office in compliance with the demand of the Minister of Labour recently that all nurses should register under his Ministry. She was interviewed by A Bright Young Thing of some twenty summers, and we quote from part of the dialogue that ensued.

B.Y.T. (getting down to the job with an air of patronising kindness designed to dispel any feeling of nervousness on the part of the other): "Now, tell me what you have done."

S.R.N.: "Well, I was in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service in the last war."

B.T.Y.: "Oh, never mind about that. That has all been done away with now. Tell me what else you have done."

The Socratic method of question and answer went on, and the condition of the nurse's health came under review.

B.Y.T.: "And are quite fit? No illnesses?"

S.R.N.: "Well, I have a prolapsed uterus."

B.Y.T.: "Oh, yes, that is something internal, isn't it?"

S.R.N. (ironically, and with emphasis): "Well, it's not in the limbs."

"WHAT'S THAT?"

To judge from another nurse's experience it might be advisable that the Minister of Labour should submit his officials who are thus to interview professional women to a general knowledge test similar to that which intending probationers frequently undergo. In the course of the dialogue a Registered Nurse mentioned that she held the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, and the blunt rejoinder came: "What's that?"

An Enthusiastic Young Person of 19 proceeded to interview a married nurse who, as the latter had stated, was in very bad health with a home and husband and children to look after, and no domestic help. After, with more or less patience (mostly less), she had stood the ordeal of trivialities and a series of more or less unintelligent questions, wondering all the time how that dinner would ever be cooked before her husband's return, the Enthusiastic Young Person, with an air of righteous dignity that His Grace of Canterbury might have emulated, put the question: "And don't you sometimes feel an urge to do nursing when so many nurses are wanted?" In recounting the incident to her friend later, the nurse's commentary was: "I just thought, if only I could but tell you what my URGE is at this moment!"

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