

NURSING ECHOES.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 110 nurses to be Queen's Nurses—76 in England and Wales, 29 in Scotland, and 5 in N. Ireland.

The *Queen's Nurses' Magazine* announces an excellent scheme which has just come into force. The opening of the first Rest-Break Home for Nurses and Midwives which has just been opened at the Bedford Hotel, Buxton. We are informed: "This is not a holiday home but many nurses require a break from their work where a holiday has become impossible. We know from experience that nurses cannot carry on indefinitely without a break, and after finding the benefit that Rest-Break Homes have been to factory workers it has been decided that nurses should also be given the opportunity of a Rest-Break House.

"This has been made possible by the British War Relief Society in giving a cheque for £5,000, and the Railway Convalescent Homes Association, who have made available the hotel.

"The charge to trained nurses and midwives is £2 2s. per week and for student nurses and midwives 25s. per week. The stay would usually be for two weeks, and application should be made to Miss Marchant, Secretary, the Council for Rest-Break Houses for Nurses and Midwives, Room 171, 5th Floor, Windsor House, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

"Lady Radnor, who is the Chairman of the Council, has stated that the main idea in providing this house is that prevention is better than cure, and it is better to take a break for a fortnight than have a breakdown that will take one off duty for months.

"The home will be open all the year round and it is hoped that as many nurses will use it in the winter as the summer."

We are all under the impression that the Armies of the World are fighting for liberty of conscience, of action, and, let us hope, of soul. But unless we are very wide awake, the group of autocrats who have monopolised power in the Government, and held us in their grip, will frustrate our love of liberty. The high and haughty attitude of Ministers, not born to, or educated to exercise control over their fellow men, is so apparent, that it is the duty of those of us who find this attitude intolerable to smash it down, less worse befall us.

We are therefore pleased to note that the *Sunday Express* sounds a note of warning—

"Those M.P.s," its political correspondent states, "they are of all parties, who fear that wartime controls and regulations will be retained for a long time after the war, are planning to ask Parliament to register agreement with their plea that the moment the fighting ends the regulations shall go; they are convinced that this is the will of the great majority of the people of Britain."

Registered Nurses have just cause for protest. So long as Rule 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, remains on the Statute Book, just so long will that Act stink in the nostrils of self-respecting Nurses. It provides for the use of their money for purposes for which it was not

contributed by them, and is therefore grossly unjust and dishonest. Every prospective candidate for Parliament must have this injustice clearly explained to him, in the hope that he will help to remove it.

The election of a new General Nursing Council for England and Wales at an early date makes possible professional reform. Registered Nurses have 16 votes, 11 by those on the General Part of the Register, and five by groups of those on the special parts. Candidates who will not pledge themselves to require the elimination of Rule 19 from the Nurses Act, 1943, should not receive votes.

The policy of the present Council, of deciding important business *in camera*, thus excluding the electorate from knowledge of their own affairs, should no longer be tolerated. But unless Registered Nurses conscientiously do their duty in relation to their professional responsibility, it is inevitable that they will be treated with contempt, as they deserve.

We are glad to learn that Mrs. Mabel C. Lediard, S.R.N., R.M.N., D.N., Matron of the Middlesex Colony for Mental Defectives, Shenley, has been nominated as a representative for mental nurses at the forthcoming election of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Mrs. Lediard has had a long and very distinguished career in mental nursing, and holds the following certificates:—

Sister Tutor Certificate from Battersea Polytechnic, 1931.

Diploma of Nursing, London University, 1931.

Bacteriology and Elementary Science from Chelsea Polytechnic, 1931.

Invalid Cookery, from Chelsea Polytechnic, 1924.

West London Hospital Certificate, General Nursing, 1923–1926.

Red Cross and St. John Chemical Warfare Certificate, 1937.

She has been an Examiner for the General Nursing Council for England and Wales since 1930.

Mrs. Lediard was also elected President of the Mental Nurses' League when it was active before the war.

Mrs. Lediard is deeply interested in the professional education and efficiency of mental nurses, realising, as she does, the marvellous results of their knowledge and skill with mentally unbalanced patients.

We are hoping the wave of aversion to what is termed "domestic work" will pass, and that girls will be encouraged to realise the value of cleanliness, which apparently is at a discount in homes high and low. We have had occasion to inspect the surroundings of families of all classes, and have been amazed at the chaotic disorder and lack of polish in the surroundings of educated and even rich families. We believe this low standard of order is largely responsible for the apotheosis of the Assistant Nurse, many student nurses claiming that they should not be called upon to perform domestic duties in the ward.

From what we can gather from our nursing exchanges, young women in many parts of the world are under the

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