

NURSING ECHOES.

As we go to press we have received the December, 1945, number of *The London Hospital League of Nurses Review*, which is an extremely interesting issue, with which we shall hope to deal at a later date.

It contains a portrait of the Treasurer and Acting Chairman of the London Hospital, Sir John Mann, Bart., and a very interesting group on the pedestal of Queen Alexandra's statue in the garden which includes Queen Mary looking younger than ever, and the Matron, Miss Clare Alexander.

The Nightingale Fellowship Journal is also to hand with a charming portrait of the late Matron, Miss G. V. L. Hillyers, which we feel sure, will be greatly valued by her many colleagues and friends in connection with her life and work at St. Thomas's Hospital.

We knew a Matron in the past who apparently had solved the difficult matter of pleasing all her subordinates. We asked her how she did it, as she was by no means a charmer. Her reply was:—

"I govern all my subordinates entirely through the alimentary canal!"

We are reminded of this policy when studying the "Second Memorandum on Hospital Diet," issued by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, for consideration by hospitals, of which the Committee who has compiled it may indeed be justly proud. This pamphlet should be studied by all Hospital Managers, Matrons and Sisters. It deals with the organisation of the catering department, staffing of kitchens, buying, record keeping and storing, menu planning, salads and vegetables (with special reference to Vitamin C), service and waste, cleanliness in the kitchen, and as a separate booklet: suggested menus, examples of recipes, duties of visiting dietitian, tables of standard requirements, table of food values and specimen stock sheets.

Of course, the organisation of the catering department in hospitals should be regarded as one of the main departments and needs several experts as supervisors. Catering should include all the processes involved in planning, buying, preparing and serving the meals for patients and staff, and we agree with the claim that "Catering for a large number, to ensure good nutrition, has become a highly specialised profession, and the fact cannot be evaded that the provision of meals in hospitals is a task requiring the services of an expert with specialised training in dietetics and institutional catering."

In the pamphlet under discussion the suggested means for full diet makes one's mouth water these abstemious days. The practical advice on cleanliness in the kitchen and annexes is specially valuable. This pamphlet on hospital diet is being widely circulated to Medical Officers of Health, to County Councils, Joint Boards for Tuberculosis and Sanatoria, by the Ministry of Health.

One wonders what time Mr. Aneurin Bevan, M.P., the new Minister of Health, has for the consideration of the National Health when he has studied the Nursing question to date, so inchoate and voluminous.

We have almost daily received pamphlets from the Ministry of Health of a valuable nature, and have some difficulty in finding time to assimilate them.

We have received a copy of "Suggested School Health Policies. A Charter for School Health," issued from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, which we hope to find space to review at an early date. This pamphlet is undoubtedly instructive. We have only one fear with the present stress on health—will it or will it not inculcate a phase of nervous conception in the young? We know the type of man, this toughness and valour produced by the past irresponsible "dare devil" boy. He is a sport. Nothing which concentrates his actions on the daily details of life, irrespective of danger, is going to better him.

It is plain that every school has some immediate opportunities for revising its own health policies and improving its health programme. It is hoped that ideas for the betterment of health in thousands of different school situations may evolve from this pamphlet.

AN INEVITABLE RESULT,

The Royal College of Nursing having organised a Roll of Co-operations and Associations of Private Nurses, is now faced with the decision whether or not to admit to the Roll those associations which supply private assistant nurses.

It has no other alternative than to support the semi-trained women who, no doubt, will push their claims to consider appropriate action.

As we go to press the Royal College of Nursing is holding a meeting of the Central Sectional Committee of the Private Nurses' Section to decide whether or not it will stabilise the position of the semi-trained private nurse.

NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN: MEMORIAL FOR BELSEN VICTIMS.

The attitude of mind "all is forgiven and forgotten" is one far from commendable when humanity has suffered indescribable agonies mentally and physically, and in our present relief from war we note the majority of people are all too eager to let bygones be bygones.

We are relieved to learn that the people of the Province of Hanover have been instructed to erect a permanent memorial, so that the significance of the large earth mounds on Lüneburg Heath, which mark the mass graves of the victims of Belsen concentration camp, will not be forgotten.

Wilhelm Hubotter, the Province architect, has prepared a plan and a representative committee of Germans is being formed to work out the details. The suggested plan is that the site of the camp should be a memorial garden, and that at one end should be erected a tower of medieval design containing an illuminated hall. The cost of the permanent memorial will be borne by Hanover Province.

But let us hope British people will also do themselves the honour to help maintain the visible evidence of their grief for human agony.

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