

hospital ward, the operating theatre, or in a private house. In private nursing her ingenuity of resource is more taxed than in hospital work, for with the exception of a few essential things that she takes with her, she has to make the best of whatever there is, and to devise ways and means of help and relief for her patient without upsetting and taxing to the utmost the household she has come to help and comfort. All this an efficient nurse manages to do in one way or in another; she makes herself the needed helper and comforter. In all nursing she serves her patient's food daintily, and changes it as much as she can; she knows when to present it and when to refrain; she does not let it stay in the room when it is done with, nor be about before she can give it; she asks few questions about it or any other thing, but quietly acts, managing all small matters without teasing or causing her patient to think much about them. She knows when rest and quiet are essential for her patient and secures them; she knows too when a little change, pleasant variety, will do good and procures it.

She is cheerful without being noisy; she knows that although speech may be "silvern," silence is sometimes "golden."

As appearance is not without its effect, our "efficient nurse" does not neglect appearance. Her dress is at all times such as becomes a nurse, expressing neatness, cleanliness, and suitability. Her hair is not parted on one side, fringed, or frizzed; these styles do not suit the neat cap she wears, and would, if indulged in, be incongruous.

As an "efficient" person must produce only good effects, and must be constantly producing such effects; as whatever an efficient person says or does the result must be good, can we say that any one is strictly efficient?

Let us then remember that, if our efficient nurse sometimes fail in one or other of the many excellent qualities she certainly possesses, it is only what in this probation life we must expect and forgive, because there is no one who can be at all times efficient.

NURSING ECHOES.

* * * Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are specially invited for these columns.

THE Duke of Cambridge, who presided at the festival dinner of the Middlesex Hospital last week, paid several high but most thoroughly deserved compliments to the nursing department of the institution. It appears that His Royal Highness paid a visit of inspection to the hospital the same morning, in order to speak from personal experience, and was especially struck by the excellent condition of the wards, the refined appearance of the nurses, and by

the special wards for cancer patients. Most hospitals, of course, do not admit these incurable cases; but by the terms of an old bequest the Middlesex has for many years set apart wards into which they are admitted, and where they generally stay till relieved by death from further suffering.

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WITH regard to the nurses, it is well recognised in the profession that Miss Thorold was a pioneer in scientific hospital nursing, and that by her great tact and accurate knowledge of nursing matters she was able to introduce reforms and vastly improve the domestic management of her institution, without friction or disturbance of existing rights, many years before some larger Metropolitan hospitals awoke to the necessity of change, or at least attempted to make it.

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THE new institute for trained nurses, situated in Cleveland Street, but communicating with the hospital, is the latest improvement Miss Thorold has effected. It is most complete in every detail. There is a large and comfortable sitting-room, and each nurse has a light and airy bedroom to herself, which is most prettily furnished *en suite* in wood painted in two shades of peacock.

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MAJOR ROSS, M.P., the Chairman of the Committee, in his reply to the toast of "Prosperity to the Middlesex Hospital," drew attention to the fact that a large sum—derived from the Lady Probationers' Fee Fund—was expended annually in pensions to nurses and others who had been long in the service of the hospital, as well as for the relief of nurses who were placed on the sick list. That seems to me something like a Pension Fund, and a most just, sensible, and business-like way of raising and expending it. If other institutions would only follow the capital example thus set by the Middlesex, nurses would be induced to remain for longer periods in their service, and so the patients and the hospitals themselves would reap increased benefits from the retention of tried and experienced assistants.

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AND of course it would be far better for the nurses to win a pension in this way than to resort to all sorts of economies to scrape together the premiums required by the National Pension Fund. I am very glad to see that Mr. Editor brought forward last week independent figures in support of the assertion he made when the prospectus was issued that the rates charged were higher than first-class insurance offices required. The *Lancet* last week also brought to light a most important statement from the actuary of the Pension Fund which every nurse who thinks of joining the Fund should mark and carefully digest. The actuary states that where a nurse would have to pay £2 10s. per annum for an annuity, a male subscriber to the Fund would only

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)