

NURSING ECHOES.

*** Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

WHATEVER Miss Louisa Twining writes is based on practical experience; whatever she does is carried through with steadfast earnestness. So it is needless to say that a paper from her pen upon "Women's Work and Poor Law Administration," which appears in last week's issue of the *Women's Penny Paper*, is well worth perusal and careful consideration. I wish Mr. Editor could find space for the whole article, but he cannot do so. However, the following will be of much interest to all Nurses, and especially those who know what great improvements have been effected in Workhouse Nursing and Nurses in the last few years. Miss Twining points out the advances which have been made, and then goes on to summarise the reforms which she considers now need to be effected. Probably she will find her wishes realised earlier than she expects, for I hear that radical alterations in the management of Workhouse Infirmaries are now being proposed in high places. However, Miss Twining writes as follows.

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"WE want voluntary visitors in every Workhouse, to cheer and support, not only the forlorn inmates, but the officers also, especially the Nurses, whose position is often most lonely and discouraging. We want Trained and competent Nurses appointed wherever there are sick to be cared for, in numbers according to the need, and the Nursing by paupers to be abolished. We desire to obtain a higher class of Matrons and Head Nurses, and we can see no reason why ladies should not offer themselves for these posts, as well as for the superintendence of all the larger schools for pauper children; well paid and comfortable posts for experienced women, but which cannot be undertaken without a previous and efficient training for the work and its duties. I can speak of the fact that the position of a Head Nurse, in the larger Country Infirmaries, is a happy one for a lady to fill, and when the number of our Trained Nurses is now so large, I am unable to understand why they do not apply for these posts. When our Workhouse Matrons become more generally women of education and refinement, as well as of practical utility, we may hope that this will become more general, as almost the only difficulty would thus be done away with."

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"THEN, for the adequate supervision and support of all these Nurses throughout the land, we con-

sider that it is essential to have a Woman Inspector appointed by the Local Government Board, according to the precedent with regard to the schools. Surely the condition of the sick in these our 'State Hospitals' is not less urgently needing a woman's care and inspection. The admirable gentlemen already appointed to these posts throughout the country having no special knowledge of the treatment of the sick, they are unable to appreciate the value or defects of the Nurses' work, and the Matron having no training in Nursing or Hospital requirements, it is obvious that deficiencies go on unnoticed from year to year, which seriously affect the condition of the sick, and must in many cases retard their recovery. The two Medical Inspectors are, the one for the Metropolitan district alone, the other for special cases throughout the country."

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"THE 'Association for Promoting Trained Nursing in Workhouse Infirmaries' has been at work for ten years, and has now one hundred Nurses employed; it is, therefore, in a position to speak of the condition of things, with which they are well acquainted, and they confirm the necessity of the appointment of some qualified and Hospital trained women, not only as Matrons over the Infirmaries, but also as Inspectors of their management. I may, perhaps, be allowed to add that want of funds alone prevents the supply of duly qualified Nurses and Midwives to many Workhouses now applying for them, in an increasing and encouraging manner. We desire to see the position of the Matrons in our larger Infirmaries more clearly defined and recognised by the Local Government Board. Highly trained and educated women are now occupying these posts, and are no longer the mere 'Housekeepers' first contemplated, when, indeed, there were no others to be had. If such are to be secured, they must be assured of a due control over their Nurses and the Nursing Department, and not, as at present, be indebted to the kindness and courtesy and goodwill of the Medical Superintendents for all that they are able to accomplish in the exercise of any authority."

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THERE seems to be some contest between the old order of things and the new in the way of Nursing at the new Workhouse Infirmary, at Birmingham. My readers may remember that some months ago I gave a description of the palatial new buildings which were then just opened, and to which Miss Gibson had just been appointed as Matron, passing from the post which she had filled for so long, with so much credit to herself and advantage to the Training

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