

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



THE forty-second Annual Report of the Gravesend Hospital is very carefully drawn up, and, so far as its statistics are concerned, might with much advantage be copied by larger Institutions in the production of similar documents. The following announcement is worthy of wide imitation:—

“MR. DAMPIER PALMER has kindly presented to the Hospital a Charity Cup to be competed for annually by the Foot-ball teams of the Boroughs of Gravesend, Northfleet, and Perry Street, upon such terms and conditions as your Committee, in conjunction with the representatives of each team, may decide upon, subject to the following conditions: 1st, That it be called the Gravesend Hospital Charity Cup; and 2nd, That at each tie or match a charge shall be made for entrance to the ground, and the proceeds handed over to the Hospital.

Your Committee accepted the Cup, and the necessary rules are in course of preparation.”

The Report states that “during the year the Nurses for paying patients have nursed in forty-six houses, whilst the District Nurse has paid no fewer than 1,521 visits to poor patients in their own homes, several of whom would have become in-patients at the Hospital had she not attended them.” There can be little doubt that if all Provincial Hospitals followed this excellent example, and maintained a staff of District Nurses, an incalculable amount of good would be effected. The balance sheet is somewhat cumbersome and unusual inasmuch as all the collections at workshops, churches, &c., are separately entered therein, instead of the mere totals being given. But the auditor's certificate is admirable and as complete as such a statement ought always to be.

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THE Report for Bourton on the Water Cottage Hospital for last year has several interesting features. The Nursing has been re-organized in accordance with modern requirements, and Miss WILSON, who, I understand, was for four years at the London Fever Hospital, and Sister at the Mary Wardell Convalescent Home for another three years, was appointed Matron out of 45 candidates. The Report states that “her attention and kindness to the patients, and also her economic and dietary arrangements, have fully justified her appointment.”

FUNERALS.—Earth to Earth Burials, Cremations, and Statuary. For high-class WORK, the LONDON NECROPOLIS COMPANY, 188, Westminster-bridge-road, and 2, Lancaster-place, Strand.—Telegrams “Tenebratio, London.”

During last year forty-four patients were admitted, each stayed on the average 26.6 days, and the average number of beds always occupied was a fraction over 3. A comparative table of the expenses under the old and new régime is given, showing that before Miss WILSON's appointment the average cost of each patient per week was 8s. 8d., and that since then it has diminished to 6s. 7d. per week.

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I HAD the pleasure last year of describing the inauguration of the Stockton-on-Tees District Nursing Association. Its first Annual Report shows, not only how much it was needed, but how eminently successful it has been. No less than 7,139 visits have been paid to 337 patients, and the staff now consists of a Superintendent and three Assistant Nurses. The rapid success of the Association is generally attributed to the active and energetic work of its Hon. Secretary, Mr. RIDLEY MAKEPEACE, but Lady LONDONDERRY has given most invaluable assistance. The action of the working classes is highly significant. The Report states:—

“It may here be stated that, as Stockton enjoys the reputation of having been the first town in the United Kingdom which initiated in its various works the systematic weekly contributions by the workmen towards the maintenance of its Hospital, we are now proud to record that Stockton-on-Tees is the first town where the workmen have combined systematically to support its District Nursing Association.”

It may finally be noted that the Association possesses the common characteristic of North country charities—financial soundness—concluding its first year of work with a balance of nearly £600 to its credit, with an expenditure of less than £200. Since the Annual Meeting I hear that the Association has entered into possession of a most commodious Nursing Home which will enable it to extend its work very considerably.

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IN reply to several correspondents, I am asked to state here that we have not forgotten the Glasgow Royal Infirmary Nurses, and are sorry to hear the grave complaints made by the writers. But I must point out that reforms cannot be made in a day, nor even, completely, in a year, when they are so radical as those which were required at Glasgow. It is only fair, therefore, to let the new Matron of that institution have a free hand to bring about the reforms which, from all I hear, she is most anxious to do. But while justice to the authorities demands this at present, we will not forget our duty to the Nurses if occasion for further criticisms

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