

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.* ]



I hear that Mrs. SWYNNERTON, the well-known artist, has painted three mural decorations for the vestibule of the Women's Building of the Chicago Exhibition on the subject of Nursing. The first represents a "Mother and Child," the second "The Work of Miss FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE in the Crimea," and the third "Tending the Aged."

Mrs. SWYNNERTON has an "At Home" for the exhibition of her works this afternoon, when, I understand, H.R.H. Princess CHRISTIAN has graciously promised to inspect them, and a large gathering of the leaders in the artistic and Nursing world will probably be present.

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I TAKE the following from an interesting article which appeared in last week's *Queen*, about Haslar Hospital:—

"One of the chief points of interest concerning Haslar is, of course, its Nursing system, now under the chief direction of Miss Hogg. Previously to 1884, the Nursing in the Naval Hospitals had been carried on in something of the same slipshod fashion as it long was in the Poor Law Infirmaries, and the so-called "Nurses" were old sailors or sometimes even merely civilians. In that year the Admiralty resolved to try the experiment of placing a number of ladies in command of the wards at Haslar, Devonport, Chatham, and Malta, the four chief Hospitals of the service. They received officers' rank, standing next in degree to the surgeons, and were to be borne upon the Civil Service List as eligible for pensions. Their uniform was devised and the pattern duly sealed at Whitehall, and a charming one it is in its fine dark blue serge and dainty little shoulder cape, faced with the scarlet, symbolical alike of the marines and the medical department.

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At the three first-named Hospitals a head sister was appointed, at the latter, which is a smaller establishment, the ladies are all of equal position officially. According to the regulations, the Sisters' duties include the training of young seamen or marines to be sick-berth attendants, and their instruction in all details of the administration of food and medicine, bandaging, and sick room cookery. It goes without saying that it would be impossible to provide accommodation on board a line-of-battle ship or a torpedo boat for female attendants in the sick ward. But men who have had the advantage of such training as Miss Hogg and her staff of ten ladies can give, are proving themselves of vastly greater value than those who have acquired their well-intentioned but rough and ready

notions of the care of the sick in the emergencies of life at sea. Originally, it was thought that boys could be brought into the Hospital direct from the training ships for teaching, but the natural instincts of the British sailor boy rendered him scarcely reliable to perform the duties which the practical character of his instructions involved, and further experience brought about the more satisfactory result of introducing young marines, who have already learnt their elementary lessons of discipline and obedience. To train these male "probationers" obviously requires tact and skill of a kind very different to that needed where the learners are enthusiastic women, and it says much for the ability and discretion of the ladies who have been called upon alike to initiate and carry on the new system that friction and difficulty but rarely arose.

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The first qualification required by the Medical Inspector-General of the Navy, on behalf of the Admiralty, is very high certificates of long and efficient training in a General Hospital of recognised standing. The pay is then liberal compared with that of the civilian Nurse, bearing in mind that the uniform provided is an ample one, and that the service carries a pension. Sisters begin at £30, and rise to £50 a year; head Sisters are on a special list, which commences at £40 at Chatham, and can end at £160 at Haslar, while messing allowance of eighteenpence a day, and washing allowance is also made, in addition to comfortable quarters. At Haslar these are particularly good, and the Sisters' sitting-room and mess-room are delightful rooms. For Miss Hogg there is also a charming private sitting room, and the ladies have their own garden, with their own individual flower beds. Rumour says that friendly rivalry runs high as to who shall raise the most and best flowers. But there is a park-like expanse of beautiful garden all round the building, where creeper-laden walls of dull old brick-work, and magnificent ilex, must be soothing indeed to eyes long used to the lower deck, or wearied by the glare of tropical seas. Then, too, there is the splendid cricket and football field, though at first it sounds odd to be told, "Oh, our 'Nurses' get up capital matches." These, however, prove pleasant diversions to those whom they have nursed into advanced convalescence, and, therefore, are not without their importance, in the curative work of the establishment. Beyond all, also, are glimpses to be caught of the fortifications and defences of Portsmouth and Spithead, among which the Gilkicker fort stands out sullenly spiteful looking in the now waning of an all too short day."

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I AM glad to hear of the increasing success and usefulness of the Bedford Trained Nurses' Institute. At the Annual Meeting of the Subscribers held on March 13th, the Council in presenting their annual report for the year 1892, in the first place drew attention to the great good done in the town by the district Nurse. During the past year she has had under her care 118 cases, and has made 2,758 visits. This part of the work of the Institute is strongly commended to the notice of those who do not as yet subscribe to the funds of the Institute. During the past year the staff of the Institution has consisted of twelve private Nurses and one district Nurse. The private Nurses have

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