

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



As we go to press the Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council is being held—of which we hope to give some account in next week's issue—with a *resumé* of the Paper read at the evening conference by Surg. Lt.-Col. Evatt.

We regret to learn that the Devonport Guardians did not accept in its entirety the excellent Report of the House Committee of the Workhouse Infirmary, which recommended that two additional trained Nurses should be added to the staff—a motion being adopted to appoint one additional Nurse.

We learn that this Infirmary contains 120 patients, and that there are now only two Nurses for day and night duty—one of whom, however, has part of her time occupied in cooking and certain other duties apart from Nursing. One guardian remarked "that there had been something like an epidemic amongst doctors for more Nurses in Poor Law Infirmarys" (we imagine produced by the conscience microbe). Of the 120 inmates in the Infirmary, he had no hesitation in saying that the greater part of them were chronic cases of old women. In his opinion a wards-woman was quite sufficient to look after their wants. He did not believe there were more than forty in the house who required medical aid, and they were paying a doctor £180 a year, and two Nurses £80 a year. Now, they were recommended to appoint two additional Nurses. What about the ratepayers' pockets? It was time they looked to the spending of the ratepayers' money.

Mrs. Ash moved as an amendment the adoption of the Report in its entirety, and supported it with the humane argument that she did not think the two Nurses already engaged, with the assistance of a third, could give proper attention to the sick inmates. Many of the inmates were subject to fits, and at times were left at the mercy of wardspeople. It could not be expected, after working hard all day, for the Nurses to visit the wards at night, and she felt sure the Guardians would agree with her that

helpless and afflicted people ought not to be left in charge of irresponsible wardspeople for hours together. But what are the sufferings of bed-ridden old women or overworked young ones in comparison with the pockets of the ratepayers?

ALLUDING to the establishment of Consumption Hospitals for Scotland, Mr. William Quarrier made the following suggestions as to a special training home for Nurses.

"In regard to the staff of Nurses and workers for these Hospitals, I feel that a training home specially for Nurses for this disease will be required. I have long been of the opinion that there are Christian ladies of means and others who would be willing to consecrate their lives to the service of such a work as that in the Nursing of the sick in the Hospitals or at their own homes. I shall be glad to hear from any who may be led to give themselves to such a life-work without any guaranteed salary for service. Every doctor will say it is important that a Nurse who understands the case should be employed, and I feel that a special training such as we propose the ladies to pass through will fit them to carry out the instructions of the medical attendants with such minuteness as will no doubt result in a larger percentage of cures being accomplished. Such a band of ladies as I am of opinion will be necessary, might be called the Phoebe Sisterhood, or the Nursing Mothers of Israel. There would be a short trial given to each one who might wish to enter, but no vow will be taken, nor uniform worn, but all shall be equal in the service of the Lord, whether the sister be serving in the kitchen, in the laundry, or by the bedside of the sick, or in going to minister to outside cases. I believe that there is room in Scotland for the manifestation of such a sisterhood as I have described, and with such a service rendered to poor humanity from loving hearts, I am sure God would be well pleased. The sisters would be helped in their training by residence among the children here in our two cottage hospitals, schools, or other homes. A house to accommodate these sisters would be necessary, which some of the Lord's children might send; £2,000 would build this."

We may be prejudiced, but we are of opinion that the labourer is worthy of his hire, and as there are so many excellent women in the world anxious and willing to give good service in return for reasonable remuneration, we hope that those who have the means of living in independence will not come forward to undersell their more needy sisters and "give themselves to any life work" without "a guaranteed salary." It is time our philanthropists recognised the fact that had they pursued a like course chronic pauperism would be the result.

NURSES' WATCHES ALTERED to show SECONDS, from 8s. 6d. This includes new seconds' dial and seconds' hand, and the necessary mechanical alterations. Nurses' Silver Keyless Watches with seconds' hand, £2 10s. **SAMUEL STANLEY, 48, MORTIMER STREET, W.** (Midway between Middlesex Hospital and Cavendish Square.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)