

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\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE Hon. Sydney Holland, in his admirable paper read before the Hospitals' Association, made some excellent points about the Nursing arrangements and the indefinite knowledge possessed by many members of Hospital committees as to the conditions obtaining in the Institutions under their management. He said:—

“If I have been deeply impressed with one fact more than another it is this, that a large number of the committee men of London Hospitals are absolutely ignorant of almost every detail connected with their Hospital. They know their way about it, some of them, not all by any means; they know enough of their Matron and Secretary to believe her and him when they are told that their Hospital is the best in London, but they do not know the conditions or inside of any other hospital to compare with their own; they do not know the pay or hours of their own Nurses, nor where they feed or sleep. They have never given the smallest personal attention to making the lives of these young women easier or happier.”

Further on, he said:—

“I believe the management of London Hospitals depends almost entirely on the Secretaries, House Governors, and Matrons, and great credit is due to them that it is so good in spite of their committees. The Secretaries do know a good deal of what goes on at other Hospitals, but the Matrons, as a rule, do not; and those of them who have not got the disease which I call ‘Matron’s Chronic,’ a disease the symptoms of which are complete satisfaction with their surroundings—those who have not got this disease seem to me to suffer from despair and hopelessness of getting their committees to carry out most necessary reforms.”

It is not only Matrons who suffer from “chronic.” Many Hospital Secretaries have the disease badly. But it must be confessed that in many Hospitals there is too much “mutual admiration” and a spirit “of course *our* Hospital is the best.” Now, this kind of self-sacrifice is a bar to progress; and, in order to keep a Hospital up to concert pitch, so to

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speak, it is most necessary for all the officials and staff to keep their eyes on the workings of other Institutions. It would be an admirable thing for all officials suffering from “chronic” to visit the Nursing Exhibition, and note the progress that is being made in all the departments of the Nursing world.

At the Nursing Exhibition may be seen a “Tracheotomy table,” designed by Sister Marion, of Barton Ward, Homœopathic Hospital. This was a gift to her from a grateful father as a thank-offering for the recovery of two of his children after tracheotomy, thanks to the skilled nursing and care they received. The fittings for this excellent table were given by one of the doctors connected with the Hospital.

MR. GRIDLEY is to be congratulated on the action he has taken in demanding that the Guardians of St. Olave’s shall give an explanation of the circumstances which led the Matron to protest against the conduct of some of the Guardians smoking till midnight in the Nurses’ sitting-room, and similar proceedings. Mr. E. Besley supported Mr. Gridley, and said he thought gross irregularities had been going on in the Infirmary. We regret to hear that Miss Evans, the conscientious Matron of this Infirmary, feels compelled to sever her connection with the Institution.

A VERY interesting point has arisen in connection with a complaint made by the Holborn Guardians to the Metropolitan Asylums Board as to the refusal of a Nurse who went to the Highgate Infirmary to remove a child suffering from an infectious disease. On seeing the child, she declined to take it away on the ground that she did not think it was in a fit state to be removed. The Metropolitan Asylums Board using very properly ruled that she was justified in using her discretionary power.

At the Brentford Board of Guardians a good deal of discussion arose as to the expenditure which the excellent new Infirmary and its adequate staff will involve. We quite agree with Mr. Box, who answered a point raised by saying that, “if they could get the sick poor of the district properly cared for for a 2d. rate, he thought it cheap at the price.”

It should be an axiom that Isolation Hospitals should themselves be above suspicion so far as sanitation is concerned; but the Sevenoaks Urban Isolation by no means reaches this ideal. The death of a Nurse from typhoid fever called attention to its condition, and it is reported, among other shortcomings, that “its sanitary

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