

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\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



WE regret the necessity for omitting much of our usual matter this week, but owing to the very serious proceedings which took place at the Annual Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, on the 22nd inst., we consider it advisable to print a full account of the meeting in this week's issue; from which the

members will regret to observe that the indefensible policy of depriving those present of liberty of speech, and the just exercise of the privileges granted to them in the Charter, was as usual carried out, both by the Chairman and Medical Hon. Secretary. We intend to discuss Mr. Fardon's Report next week, as we were deprived of that right in the Executive Committee.

WE have most gratefully to acknowledge with much gratitude a donation of £1 is. kindly sent by Miss Emily A. Anderson, Matron of the Children's Hospital, Paddington Green, towards the funds of the Sir Julian Goldsmid Home of Rest for Nurses at Brighton. The Home is now quite full, and the lovely weather at the seaside is greatly enjoyed by the visitors.

AN "extraordinary meeting" has been convened of the Guardians of the City of London Union. The meeting was convened for the purpose of considering a letter from the Local Government Board, stating that they had instructed their inspector (Dr. Downes) to hold an official inquiry into the administration of the Infirmary so far as related to the differences which had arisen between the medical superintendent and the Matron; also a letter from Dr. Downes, stating that he proposed opening the inquiry at the Infirmary on Wednesday, August 12th, and asking that he might be furnished with the full names and addresses of any persons whom the Guardians desired to call as witnesses in the matter to which the inquiry related.

We can but repeat what we have often said before, that all this deplorable friction between the Medical and Nursing Departments in our

Poor Law Infirmaries will continue—and, we fear, increase in a marked degree—until the laws regulating these departments are organised upon a more just and sensible basis.

WE would advise that the Local Government Board should schedule a list of leading questions on the subject, and submit them to the Medical Superintendents and Matrons of the Infirmaries under their direction for their opinion. The opinion, also, of unbiassed medical men and Matrons—who are engaged in training Nurses—might also be obtained in the same way. There must be a fundamental reason for the constant friction which arises between these responsible officers, most of them ladies and gentlemen of the highest ability and honour.

WE are always willing to uphold and support the action of Nurses who have the necessary courage and sense of duty to bring to the notice of their authorities, abuses connected with the Institution they belong to. It is only by bringing instances of mismanagement before the authorities that reforms can be effected. But the "general grumbler" in the Nursing profession has no claim on one's sympathies. She only troubles and disheartens her colleagues, and does more harm than good if the matter reaches the authorities. A case in point has arisen in the Lambeth Infirmary, where letters addressed to the Matron from a Nurse's father and uncle were brought before the Board.

The uncle wrote apparently under great excitement, and not much to the point. The father, a Dr. Thompson, expressed himself as follows:—"Through overwork in carrying out her duties, my daughter is in failing health, and I understand that, besides ordinary Nursing, most objectionable and menial duties have been expected from her, and that she has been grossly insulted by some Nurse (evidently ignorant of the laws of society) in her ward, who, of course, is utterly devoid of what a lady's feelings are or ought to be. It seems to me there are several Nurses in the place whose doings want exposing, and as my daughter's case is not the first, I think the sooner the attention of the Local Government Board is drawn to the whole matter the better."

On coming before the Board in reference to the allegations contained in these letters, Miss Thompson, the Nurse in question, placed herself and her father in an exceedingly false position. She denied that she had any complaint against her fellow officers. She denied that she had been insulted. It was quite a mistake, too, to say that she imputed anything

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