

### 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\* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 Duchess, Maria Josepha, the wife of the celebrated oculist, Duke Charles Theodore, of Bavaria, and her daughter, are skilled and trained nurses, and the greater part of their time is devoted to the care of the three Eye Hospitals of the Duke. The Duke, who has already successfully performed more than 3,000 operations for cataract, is assisted at most of his operations by his wife and daughter. The Duchess and her daughter are to be found every morning, at seven o'clock, with the Duke, at the bedsides of the patients. The costume of these royal nurses when on duty is a simple black dress, with collar and cuffs, and a big apron of blue and white striped linen.

\* \* \*

"VIEW DAY" at St. Bartholomew's is always the great function of the year in the Hospital. The wards are gay with spring flowers (the result in a large measure of a raid upon Covent Garden in the early morning by as many of the nursing staff as can be spared), the patients don the smartest available bed-jackets, the bed-linen is daintily clean, and a course of spring cleaning makes the wards—always spotless to the casual observer—even more immaculate than ordinarily. This year, the function was as usual a great success, and between 200 and 300 persons visited the Hospital, and were shown round by Sir Trevor Lawrence, the Treasurer, and the Senior Surgeon, Mr. Thomas Smith. On view days, both the medical staff and the patients are invited to state any grievances they may feel. The nursing staff, presumably, is not supposed to have any—at all events, no provision is made for the airing of these. Probably also, as the organisation of the nursing is of comparatively recent date, it was felt that the proper method for the nurses to acquaint the Committee with their grievances, if they have any, was through the matron, their official head, rather than by a public statement in a ward full of people—a somewhat antiquated method of procedure, and one which would be scarcely conducive to discipline.

THE Workhouse and Infirmiry Committee of the Lambeth Infirmiry reported at a recent meeting of the Guardians that Miss Kerr, the assistant matron and superintendent of nurses of this institution was an exceptionally able officer, and was not likely to remain long in the Guardians' service at her present rate of remuneration. It was moved by Mrs. Despard that the report be referred back. "Credit should be given where credit was due, and the nurses felt that it ought to be stated that it was mainly through the efforts of Dr. Harcourt that the probationers had recently passed so successful an examination." The condition of things in an infirmiry where the nurses have a voice in determining what salary the Guardians shall give to their superintendent must, we imagine, be somewhat peculiar.

\* \* \*

We are sorry to believe that the Rev. W. Hobbs brought a true indictment against woman-kind when he said he was "not surprised at what the nurses stated, as ladies were always more ready to speak favourably of men than of their own sex." When will women learn to appreciate one another? Ultimately, the consideration of the salary of the assistant matron was postponed for a fortnight, when it is to be hoped that the Guardians will settle the matter *without advice* from the nursing staff.

\* \* \*

YET another Board of Guardians have had to decide the question as to whether they will raise the salary of one of their officers. This time it is the Willingboro' Guardians, whose assistant nurse asked for an increase of wages. In the discussion which ensued, by the way, it was stated that Miss Orton was "not a trained nurse at all," so we are somewhat inclined to agree with those Guardians who held that £20 a year, with uniform and rations, was a sufficient salary to pay her, inasmuch as we think an untrained nurse would be dear at any price. With other views expressed by these gentlemen, however, we are unable to agree. One remarked, "no one paid their servants as well as that, the poor distressed agriculturists could not, and he considered an advance would be squandering the ratepayers' money." Another remarked that "there was no comparison between the amount of work of the nurse, and what the cook, who got less money, had to do." Yet another, instanced a case of a nurse "at present in Guy's Hospital, a thoroughly well educated and accomplished young lady in every way, who was getting £8 a year."

\* \* \*

The tone of the whole discussion makes us inclined to despair of the capacity of Boards of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)