

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 new Sarah Acland Home at Oxford was opened by the Prince of Wales during his recent visit to Oxford. His Royal Highness was received by Mrs. Liddell, the President of the Committee, and presented by her with a golden key with which he unlocked the front door. Upon entering the hall the Prince unveiled three tablets, which recorded the "In Memoriam" foundations. Before leaving the building His Royal Highness was photographed, with the members of the Committee and Sir Henry Acland.

AT a recent meeting of the City of London Guardians the Rev. E. C. Hawkins drew the attention of the Board to the serious responsibility they took upon themselves by appointing untrained women as assistant nurses. He pointed out that if such persons came as probationers their ignorance was recognised, and they would have to be taught, but this was not the case if they were engaged as assistant nurses. Mr. Hawkins was supported by Mr. Norton, who said that "three of the candidates whom they were asked to elect had no qualification, so they must take it that anything was good enough for the sick poor." It is perhaps needless to add that the Guardians proceeded to elect these women.

AT a recent meeting of the Essex County Cottage Nursing Association Lady Rayleigh explained that the object of the Association was to supply a want which was increasingly felt, and to provide nurses belonging to the cottager class to nurse cottagers in their own homes.

"They did not want very highly-trained nurses, who would be too fine for the appliances to be found in a cottage. These nurses would still be wanted for cases that required very special knowledge, but for the ordinary cases of illness in villages, the maternity cases, and so on, they wanted nurses whom the poorer people would feel at home with, who would nurse the mother when she was ill, and help to look after the children."

We are sorry to be compelled to take exception to these remarks, but we are of opinion that the poor have a right to expect that the nurses provided for them shall be fully-qualified, quite as much as they have a right to expect qualified medical assistance. No one has as yet ventured to suggest that the poor do not want "very highly-trained medical men," nor can we think that the idea, if mooted, would meet with the approbation of the medical profession. In our opinion the attempt to create an inferior and imperfectly trained order of nurses is open to precisely the same objections as would be raised to a proposition to supply unqualified medical assistance. The maternity cases to which Lady Rayleigh alludes as being suitable to be attended by partially-trained nurses of the cottager class are cases which, in our opinion, tax the skill, the endurance, and the nerve of the most highly-trained nurses. We are unconvinced, moreover, that very highly-trained nurses are too fine for the appliances to be found in cottages. Our experience of nurses goes to prove that the more highly-trained they are the more ready they are to utilise anything that comes to hand.

That there is a need for the employment of working women as cottage helps in the houses of their neighbours in times of sickness we fully believe, only we cannot concede that these women are entitled to be called nurses, without having undergone the course of education which qualifies them to act in this capacity. In any case, if they adopt the name of nurse the title must be one which is devoid of significance.

A LETTER received by the Committee of the Wellingborough Nursing Association from a district patient has afforded the members much gratification as a proof that the services of the nurses of the Association are valued by those to whom they minister. The patient said she had received an invitation to attend the meeting of the Nursing Association; she was sorry she would not be able to do so, but she desired to acknowledge the good she had received from it, both for herself and little son, who was scalded. She was sure it was a noble Association, and she spoke well of it whenever she could, and she should continue to be a subscriber as long as she could.

AT a Poor Law Conference lately held in Malvern, Lord Beauchamp called attention to the necessity for the thorough nursing of the sick poor, and spoke of the value of ladies' committees. Lord Beauchamp's interest in all that concerns the welfare of the poor is well-known to be keen, and his knowledge of the

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