

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* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



A CORRESPONDENT at Athens telegraphs to the *Daily Chronicle* that the Prime Minister (M. Ralli) and all the other Ministers, accompanied by Mr. James Anderson and Mr. S. N. Coclas, members of the Local Athenian Committee, visited the Piræus Hospital, and remained there two hours. They expressed entire satisfaction and profound gratitude for the *Chronicle's* philanthropic efforts. The Mayor of Athens, the president of the municipal hospital, and the directors of other hospitals sent affecting letters of gratitude.

The heat in Greece is now extreme, and the nurses are naturally feeling its effects, but every day the patients are being discharged, so that in a few weeks it is to be hoped all the Sisters will be safely home again, when they will deserve a right royal welcome, after a splendid spell of work, accomplished in many instances with immense self-sacrifice and devotion.

We hear that the London Homœopathic Hospital celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, by inviting its friends to tea in the wards on Thursday, June 24th. As usual the hospital looked charming, and was tastefully decorated for the occasion, while the fare provided was excellent. In Barton Ward the moving spirits were Sister Marian, without whom no function at the Homœopathic would be complete, and Nurse Lydia Edwardes; and their kindly hospitality will not soon be forgotten by those who enjoyed it. It is unnecessary to say that the patients were as happy as possible, and the quaint ways of the children afforded much amusement to the visitors.

IMPROVEMENTS have lately taken place in the uniforms of the nursing staffs at Guy's and St. Mary's Hospitals—in the former a much prettier cap is now in vogue, and, at St. Mary's, Sister Dora caps have replaced the old flat shape. Washing dresses have also replaced the woollen blues and greys of the sisters and staff nurses. It is strange how conservative are the habits of hospital managers; to think that we have

passed through the antiseptic period into the light of aseptic methods, and that still the stuffy germ-generating woollen gown as a uniform for nurses survives. It is almost incredible.

VARIOUS correspondents in the *Morning Post* write complaining of the quality of the food supplied to nurses in hospitals, both in London and the country. As a matter of fact in very many hospitals extensive reforms have taken place in the commissariat department, and indeed, often nurses are much better fed than they would be in their own homes. It is notorious, moreover, that the nurses who are most dissatisfied, and fastidious, about their food are those who are drawn from the lower ranks of life. This is so much the case that an observant maid once told us that she "always knew who were ladies by the way they cleared their plates." Some institutions, however, are, we have reason to believe, still behind the times in the way in which they cater for their nurses. If members of the public wish to draw attention in the press to the unsatisfactory condition of any particular hospital in this respect, they will do so to any purpose only by naming the institution of which they complain; but to make general statements is absolutely useless, besides being unfair to a large number of institutions where the nurses are conscientiously and admirably catered for.

MISS L. GAVED WILLS writes to us to say that she is at present night sister at the West London Hospital, Hammersmith, and that she was trained not at the Exeter Hospital, but at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital. Will our readers, therefore, kindly notice that this correction should be made in the list of members and their addresses, which we published, as those suggested for the new Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

THE Editor of the *Scalpel* is well known for his large-mindedness, and for his liberal views on matters which concern the nursing profession, and we do not doubt that he has found nurses proportionately grateful to him. They will, therefore, read with the attention it deserves the editorial remarks in a recent issue. The Editor, in reviewing the growth of the nursing profession during the Victorian era, says that "the nurses of to-day must look to it that there is not over-growth. The motive of work shows a tendency to a lower level than that which actuated the olden-time nurse. Devotion to duty is apt to be overlooked in devotion to self. With the increased facilities for education, the increased development of self-reliance among women, the average nurse of to-day should prove that these

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