

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* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



HER MAJESTY has conferred the decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon Nursing Sisters Mary Helen Ellis, Mary Stanislaus Jones, Mary Anastasia Kelley, and Mary de Chantal Huddon, in recognition of their services in tending the sick and wounded at the seat of war during the Crimean campaign of 1854-1856.

It may be of interest to the public to learn that these sisters have received this decoration as being the only survivors of the Roman Catholic sisters who gave their services in nursing our soldiers during the Crimean War, over 40 years ago. Their services were very much appreciated by Miss Nightingale, who, indeed, has ever since shown her interest in them in many ways. The three first-named, together with another who has died since, were, on their return from the East, asked to undertake the nursing of a hospital just then being established in Great Ormond Street for incurable and dying female patients, and to this hospital they have been attached to the present time. This gracious recognition of Her Majesty will be felt by the sisters all the more because it has been made in this year when all the events of her long reign are being recalled to mind.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Queen's Commemoration Fund on behalf of the Jubilee Institute, held at Grosvenor House on Tuesday, it was announced that the sum of £68,000 had been raised. Great efforts are to be made to raise £100,000 before closing the fund.

THE DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND presided on Thursday at Stafford House over the fourth annual meeting of supporters of the Royal Maternity Charity and District Nurses' Home, Howard's Road, Plaistow — an institution founded in 1889 for the gratuitous nursing of maternity and other cases among the poor in their own homes. The Duchess of Sutherland alluded to the beneficent work carried on by the institution, remarking that, but for the aid which it gave, many of the patients nursed must

have been removed to the workhouse infirmary. The work was carried on under the superintendence of Miss K. Twining (Sister Katherine), and it deserved, she thought, most generous support. The committee were anxious to increase the number of associates and to place the charity on a sound financial basis. It was a unique work. Not only were poor persons nursed at their own homes in a particularly poor neighbourhood, but a training home for nurses was provided. There were those who never lost an opportunity of denouncing in the Press these cottage nurses, but she thought such people were lacking in perception in not knowing that there were circumstances in which such nurses could be as useful as those who had been more highly trained. Mr. George Wyndham moved a resolution to the effect that it was essential to the welfare of the charity that it should be freed from debt and provided with a more regular income to meet its current expenses. He stated that during the past year 91,652 visits were paid to patients at their own homes, and upwards of 580 pupils had been received into the home for training since its foundation. Of that number 291 were working among the poor in 32 counties of England and Wales and three counties of Scotland. Of the total income, amounting to £3,843 18s. 7d., only £153 was derived from patients themselves.

We fear we must plead guilty to being one of those persons who dissent from the custom of calling village women who have received no practical training in a hospital ward, "nurses." We feel sure every effort which is being made to provide nursing for the poor when sick, deserves encouragement, and the Duchess of Sutherland is to be congratulated upon her earnest work for the poor; all the same we own we should like to see this class provided with the trained and skilled care which their more wealthy neighbours obtain when they are ill. These cottage nurses should always be under the superintendence of a trained superintendent.

AN active correspondence still continues in the *Morning Post* headed *Hospital Nurses*, which concerns itself with their food and hours of work; no institutions are named, and all therefore share the general discredit. The only way to obtain reforms in public institutions, is to name the institution which is thus managed; vague accusations are useless. We could wish the *Morning Post* would interest itself in the far more serious grievances in connection with the mismanagement of the Royal British Nurses' Association—they are of vital importance to the public at large, and to the future efficiency of trained nurses.

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