

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 beg to acknowledge with much gratitude an annual subscription of £1 for the Nurses' Home of Rest at Brighton, from Miss Margaret Huxley of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital. Miss Huxley lately visited the Home, and was much pleased with its arrangements. Her good opinion is worth having, as she is acknowledged to be a first-class practical manager.

WE have received no communication officially from the Metropolitan Hospital concerning our remarks upon that institution, but rumours reach us that the recent plain speaking has not been without its effect. The nursing staff found, to their surprise and satisfaction, on entering the dining-room one day, not long since, that a member of the Committee, who is universally respected and popular in the hospital, was installed there. The dinner was a typical one, and we understand that the following day new potatoes were substituted for the black ones, of which the nursing staff have complained for months past, and other improvements have been made. It is also rumoured that the matron's keys are not now handed over to the housekeeper when she goes off duty. We are informed that the position of matron of the new Convalescent Home has been filled, at all events temporarily (and it is difficult to see why this appointment should be made temporarily) by a lady from the London Hospital. We think that the Committee should understand that this filling of appointments from the London Hospital is giving rise to very considerable comment, and that if any posts in their hospital are compulsorily vacated, and filled in the same manner, we shall feel it our duty to deal publicly with the matter.

WE also stated that the nurses of the Metropolitan Hospital had expressed to the Committee, in writing, their regret at the resignation of a very popular sister. It is widely rumoured, and we understand that much indignation has been expressed, that the nurse who took a leading part in organising this protest, after the letter had

been posted, directed to the Chairman of the Committee, repented of her action, and that after the letter was posted, and before it reached the Chairman and the Committee, her signature was deleted. We should be glad if this fact is inaccurate if the Chairman would authorise us to deny it publicly. Is it possible that communications addressed to the Chairman of this hospital are opened, and altered, by anyone else?

WE have no desire to act prejudicially towards the Committee of this hospital, but in ventilating these matters we believe that we have regard to their best interests.

WE are glad to see some letters in the *Morning Post* from "grateful patients" who have been inmates of private nursing homes. These institutions are invaluable, when well conducted, to the better classes, and to busy surgeons.

THE subject of trained nursing for people with moderate incomes is one which is engaging much attention, and the daily nurse promises to become a popular institution, as undoubtedly she meets a want. There are many people to whom the services of a trained nurse for one or two hours a day are an immense boon, who cannot afford the luxury of, and have no accommodation for, a nurse in the house. The daily nurse therefore has probably "come to stay." The experiment is now being tried at Walthamstow by Miss E. E. Rust. Miss Rust is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and a certificated masseuse. She also holds the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society. It will be interesting to hear Miss Rust's experience later on. We understand that her work, though only of five weeks' duration, has been much appreciated, and that already she has had to refuse cases.

WE have received a pamphlet by Dr. Jamieson B. Hurry, M.A., entitled, "District Nursing on a Provident Basis," which has been reprinted from the *Lancet*. The object of the writer is to prove that "Institutes of district nursing, instead of increasing the independence and self-reliance of the working classes, exert the opposite effect, and encourage the poor to depend on the gratuitous help of the rich. In other words, they tend to demoralise, instead of fostering a spirit of self-help and thrift." The plea is therefore made that district nursing should be organised on a provident, self-supporting basis, such as that as is adopted by provident dispensaries and medical clubs, the exceptional cases, which cannot afford even the small annual sum suggested, being provided for by

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