

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* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 have to acknowledge with gratitude a subscription of £2 2s. od. for Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest at Brighton from Mr. Edgar Willett.

OWING to the indisposition of Miss Mary Kingsley, the Sessional Lecture of the Royal British Nurses' Association, which she had most kindly consented to deliver on "The Nursing of Europeans on the West Coast of Africa," is unavoidably postponed from February 25th to March 8th.

Asylum News says:—"The Petition to the Lord Chancellor on the Pension Clauses of the Lunacy Acts Amendment Bill has been numerously signed by Members of the Asylum Workers' Association. The signatures numbered 4323, and emanated from thirty-nine County and Borough Asylums." Well done, co-operation.

ON all sides Guardians of the Poor are bombarded with letters of resignation from trained nurses, and the supply of nurses ready to fill their places falls far short of the demand.

THE reason for this constant dissatisfaction, upon the part of the nurses, is the uncouth dictation upon the part of the Masters and Matrons of the Workhouses—persons who are usually selected from a totally uneducated class, and placed in positions of great authority and influence, for which they are entirely unsuited. Complaints of this intolerable interference come from far and wide, and, just at present, the local press teems with accounts of these unseemly dissensions between Masters and Nurses, and of the boisterous, and often violent, discussions at Boards of Guardians.

WE cannot altogether exonerate the Local Government Board, because they must be aware that, under the existing arrangements, discipline can never be maintained in the sick wards of Workhouses. It is useless trying to make bricks without straw, and to place a trained nurse in charge of these wards, and then to pour all the vials of Bumbledom upon such a defenceless person, means wrecking the health of the conscientious

woman, and her supersession by women lacking in principle and power to effect the necessary reforms

THE Local Government Board have issued new Nursing Orders, and with a stroke of the pen have swept away the legality of pauper nursing; but, how does the Board propose to effect this enormous reform? It will not do it by a stroke of the pen. No! nor many such; so the sooner the Local Government Board gives time for the consideration of this great question of Nursing Reform the better. No real organization will be effected until the nursing of the inmates of Infirmaries, and wards under its direction, is made a distinct Department—giving educated women some recognized status under the Poor Law, as in the Naval, Military, and Indian Army Nursing Services, and on the Board of this Department women experts must be accorded seats.

THE Local Government Board is showing some weakness in relation to the appointment of a head nurse at the Penzance Workhouse Infirmary. The guardians have appointed an untrained nurse, and this is the more to be regretted, as many cases of midwifery are entrusted to her care, and the Local Government Board have appealed to the medical officer to say, whether, in his opinion, the nurse has had such practical experience in nursing as to render her a fit and proper person to hold the office of head nurse! Considering that this untrained woman has been permitted to conduct four midwifery cases in the absence of the doctor, a guardian expressed the significant opinion that, if the doctor reported that Miss Kitto was not capable, the Local Government Board "would come down on him very strongly"! and he thought the medical officer should be cautioned to be careful what answer he sent!

SEVERAL nurses have been discharged for neglect of duty and infringement of rules from the Poor Law Infirmary at Chester. One guardian expressed the opinion that "You cannot give nurses a good character who stay out all night and get in over the fence, and smoke cigarettes." Ultimately it was proved that the escapade of getting over the garden wall did not take place at night but at noon. Another complaint was made that one of the nurses was taken from her duty at night to accompany the superintendent in her songs, but this, it was stated in reply, occurred only once, on the occasion of a dance at Christmas time. A guardian thought if the nurses had time for these amusements, there were too many of them, and he suggested that the guardians might probably dispense with one or two, and save the ratepayers' pockets. Anyway, discipline is evidently very lax in this institution.

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