

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of a large number of Queen's Nurses to date January 1st, 1899. Of these thirteen are working in London, fifty-five in the provinces, seven in Wales, twenty-eight in Scotland, and seven in Ireland. We regret that the space at our disposal does not permit of our printing in full the names of these newly-appointed nurses.

CHRISTMAS and the New Year have brought us many delightful letters from many quarters of the globe, conveying kindly good wishes for the Editor and for the "Nursing Record," for all of which we are deeply grateful.

MRS. WRIGHT SEWALL, President of the National Council of Women of the United States, who when with us in the summer, making preliminary arrangements for the International Congress, won all hearts by her extraordinarily sympathetic personality, says: "I think I enjoyed nothing in London more than my evening at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. It was a unique experience, I never think of it but with the greatest pleasure, and with the hope that next summer may give me a large audience of the same profession, whose representatives afforded me such an intelligent, sympathetic hearing." We feel sure that those who were privileged to hear Mrs. Sewall's inspiring words will never forget them, and it is good news that every opportunity will be afforded to the Nursing Profession at large, to meet and know Mrs. Sewall and some of her compatriots in the coming summer.

WE are glad to find that some of the Matrons of leading colonial hospitals are realising the value of the Matron's Council. In many Christmas letters information is asked for, and very kind expressions concerning the Nursing Conference held last summer, and the papers read at it are expressed, and many whose official duties will prevent them, still long to be present in June. One correspondent says, "I am a constant reader of the "Nursing Record," and shall content myself with the next best thing to attending the Congress in person, reading the sympathetic reports which will no doubt appear in your paper."

IN helping to organize the Nursing School at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in the eighties, we suggested the co-operation of the Lecturers to Nurses and the Superintendent of Nursing in the examination of Probationers before awarding places and recommending them for a certificate. Personally we objected to sign a certificate for any nurse, unless satisfied of her efficiency by taking part in the examinations and being present at all.

OUR system was simple and satisfactory. Every quarter reports were sent in, in writing, by the Sisters to the Matron, in answer to definite questions and, with the reports of personal conduct in the Home department by the acting Home Sister, marks were awarded or withheld. Thus each probationer could gain a maximum of 200 marks for good conduct and practical work, 50 for obedience, 50 for punctuality, 50 for ward-management, and 50 for devotion to the sick. The Matron's examination consisted in answering a Paper on Practical Nursing, and in an exhibition of technical skill in bandaging, splint padding, cutting of dressings, or any task set by the Matron. These exhibitions of handicraft were exhibited to the Lecturers to Nurses, were examined in Anatomy, Physiology and on the theory of medical and surgical nursing, each having the power to award 200 marks.

IT will thus be seen that practical work and personal conduct held the balance, and that unless almost full marks were awarded for these most important qualities, no nurse could head the list at the examinations, or win the gold medal. We have often been accused of an undue preference for examinations, because we have advocated the propriety of a well defined curriculum of education for nurses, and because we hold that they should give proof by examination that they have digested and assimilated what they have been taught, but we feel sure that our system cannot be truthfully accused of encouraging theory in preference to practice. Both must advance together.

WE are therefore very pleased to learn that this system of the Medical Men and Matron harmoniously co-operating together both in teaching and examining Probationers has been inaugurated at the Lewisham New Infirmary. Domestic science, hygiene, and surgical handicraft are taught by the Matron and her Assistant, classes being held for the greater part of the year to perfect the pupils in these branches. The fact that Miss Lofts the Matron last year passed the L.O.S. examination, so that she might be qualified to instruct and help the nurses in their Maternity work, is most praiseworthy. Indeed,

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