

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\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



LAST Saturday, the Princess of Wales, as President of the Royal National Pension Fund, received a large number of the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth thousand nurses who had insured in the Fund, in the grounds at Marlborough House, and presented to them their certificates. The nurses presented a very picturesque appearance in their various tasteful uniforms, many of them wearing badges and medals of societies to which they belonged, and the Princess was, as ever, most kind and gracious. In thanking the nurses for a vote of thanks, the Prince of Wales said that there was no philanthropic object with which he and the Princess of Wales could be more gladly associated than with the Pension Fund for Nurses.

THE band of the 1st Life Guards played a charming selection of music, and the nurses who were invited to inspect the gardens evidently enjoyed the refreshments which were provided for them under a long range of marquees.

PERSONALLY, we should have more sympathy with the work of the Fund if the nurses were impressed with its value as a means of self-help, for as they pay full market value for the policies, they are in no sense pensioners, and there is no reason for classing this insurance society as a philanthropic institution—no doubt when women know more of business they will appreciate the difference. At present any scheme which encourages nurses to save a portion of their earnings is to the good.

ON Saturday the Princess of Wales paid a private visit to the London Hospital. Her Royal Highness was received by the Chairman and Lady Knutsford. She went into the receiving room, and round the wards, and was greatly interested in the arrangement made for the due observance of the religious customs of the Jews; in the Hebrew Ward, the Passover cake over the door, the Ten Commandments on the door posts, and the special kitchen, where, in olden days, Sisters requiring *real* good beef tea for a sick Gentile, used to beguile the little Jewish cook to fill sundry feeders.

The Princess spoke to many of the patients, and afterwards inspected the Nurses' Home, and had tea in the garden.

At the Hampstead Board of Guardians a discussion lately arose as to the appointment of male nurses to look after the insane patients instead of the present male lunatic attendant. The present attendant had given notice to leave, but had offered to stay on if his salary is increased from £30 to £35 a year. On the other hand, the Local Government Board wrote sanctioning the appointment of two male nurses at £30 a year each. It was stated that the present attendant's objection was to working for twenty-four hours a day. Mrs. Finlay said the man was not really on duty for that time. The only thing was that he was liable to be called up at any time, when wanted. Major Sheffield said that the man was on duty just the same. He had himself been on duty when he was asleep. Mr. Baily exclaimed, "Put it the other way, Major, and say you were asleep when on duty." It was agreed to advertise for two male nurses.

WE hope these men will insist on a day and night shift, and not be considered unreasonable for objecting to be responsible for the care of insane patients for twenty-four hours at a stretch. The supposition that human beings can either live without sleep, or care for the sick whilst asleep, dies hard.

THE Guardians of the Newton Abbott Workhouse report friction amongst the nursing staff, and if the suggestions of the Guardians are carried out, friction will greatly increase. At the last meeting of the Board, the Visiting Committee recommended that the nurses, when off duty, should be allowed to do as they please—in other words, go out of the building at any time without the knowledge of the Superintendent Nurse. Some officer in authority should certainly be responsible for issuing passes for the junior members of the nursing staff; and, as there is no trained Matron at the Newton Abbott Workhouse, this officer should certainly be the Superintendent Nurse.

AN Irish correspondent encloses the following advertisement from a local paper:—

#### "RATHDOWN UNION.

The Board of Guardians of the above Union will, on Wednesday, the 12th day of July, 1899, proceed to elect a properly qualified person to fill the office of

**M**ATRON for the Workhouse, at a Salary of £40 per annum, with the usual rations and furnished apartments.

The person appointed must be able to write and keep the accounts necessary for the office.

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