

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 on several occasions pointed out how undesirable it is, from a disciplinary point of view, that students' Hospital 'Gazettes should constitute themselves the censors of nursing affairs, and we think the following paragraphs, culled from the *Westminster Hospital Gazette*, "point a moral," if they do not adorn a tale.

"We wonder who the probationer is who lately danced into Henry Hoare with the remark, 'Good-night all! I've got to do some washing to-morrow, and I've never washed on Sunday before.' 'I did think 'ow as she a'd been brought up as a lady,' remarked one of the patients."

"It would be deemed a favour if those nurses carrying sausages upstairs would keep a close watch on them and also muzzle the cheese, as it is absolutely dangerous allowing it to wander about promiscuous like."

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We have touched, on former occasions, on complaints which reach us far too often, of the brusque—not to say rude attitude—assumed by some hospital officials towards the general public, and which we feel sure does much to alienate public sympathy from these institutions. The following letter speaks for itself.

"DEAR MADAM,—Will it be troubling you to insert the following letter in your valuable paper as a warning to visitors who intend to pay a visit to the Hospital at E.—, as the rudeness I received there a fortnight ago from the Matron behoves me to make it known to others who might unconsciously submit themselves to similar unpleasantness.

I called there at about 3.15 p.m. with a friend, and after waiting some minutes at the door, an untidy maid appeared, and I asked to see the Matron. We were left standing in the hall, instead of being shown into the Board Room, which I believe is the customary treatment allotted to visitors to hospitals; after more waiting, the Matron came down. We wished her a pleasant 'Good afternoon,' and I enquired if we might see round the Hospital.

"In a most rude, abrupt manner she informed me that it was impossible, she was very busy in the wards and it was not visiting day.

I replied that except for the friends of patients I was not aware that Hospitals had special visiting days but as it was impossible for me to call on another day,

might we not see even one ward. 'No, certainly not,' was the curt answer, 'No one else can show you round and I am too busy in the wards.'

I then asked if it was true that one of the wards was closed on account of want of funds. She seemed to resent this as a personal insult and informed me in the rudest possible manner that 'patients could scarcely be in bed with no roof to cover them'!! (She evidently wished to imply that I was very remiss not to know that the Hospital was being repaired).

I came away feeling how true it was that (as I had heard) the Hospital sadly needed reforms, and I am not surprised that the funds are low, if visitors, and may be would be contributors, are treated with as little civility as I was.

Very truly yours,

H. G. E."

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The truth is, many country hospitals are understaffed, and the Matron has much more to do than she can easily perform; but, even so, rudeness is inexcusable, and with organization some official can be told off to show visitors the wards in the afternoon, especially as it is only by interesting those who visit the hospital that a sufficient income can be hoped for.

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MISS F. L. HAY FORBES, having resigned her post as Matron of the Tunbridge Wells General Hospital, was presented, by the nursing staff, with a very handsome gold curb bracelet with padlock, as a token of the esteem and affection with which they regarded her; while the domestic staff presented a pair of hand-painted Worcester china dessert dishes. Miss Forbes was also the recipient of many other gifts from various friends, among which may be mentioned a pair of solid silver flower vases, all of which were presented with expressions of affectionate regard, and of sorrow at her leaving the post she had held for so long.

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THE action of some members of the Committee of the Bedworth and District Nursing Association in calling upon Nurse Holmes to resign her position, which she has held for over three years, has caused some feeling among those who have had occasion to prove her worth, and subscribers are resenting the action by refusing to subscribe unless an explanation is forthcoming. It should be borne in mind that this is not the first occasion on which a nurse has been similarly treated at Bedworth.

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IN an open letter to the subscribers of the Association, Mr. William Johnson says:—"The nurse has performed her duties professionally in a manner that no one can find much fault with. Reports and gossip make out that a certain independence and out-spokenness of the nurse

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