

Speaking at a meeting of nurses, held in Philadelphia recently, in support of the Army Nursing Bill, Dr. S. Weir Mitchell made the following remarks:—"I think that three things are all-important in securing the passage of the Bill. First, there should be a committee appointed to confer with the Surgeon-General in regard to the matter; second, the Surgeon-General should be placed at the head of the corps of women, even if he has under him a woman Superintendent; and third, no nurses should be appointed to the Army except by competitive examination."

Dr. W. W. Keen thought the object of the Bill should be stated as "making permanent" the employment of women nurses. He objected to having the usefulness of Army Nurses limited to general and post hospitals, thus shutting out transports, field hospitals, and like places where woman's care is greatly needed. He, however, disapproved of their being sent to the front.

FROM the Report of The Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago, of which Miss Harriet Fulmer is Superintendent, we learn that its tenth year of usefulness has drawn to a close, and it is interesting to note that the Board of Directors are all women. This Society is doing splendid work amongst the poor of Chicago, and has won for itself the confidence of the medical men and citizens.

Mr. Arthur Reynolds, the Commissioner of Health, writes to Miss Fulmer:—

"I desire to say that The Visiting Nurse Association has been of the greatest value to this department in its work.

"This is particularly noticeable in its efforts to suppress contagious disease. Your nurses have been most diligent in ferreting out concealed cases and reporting them, and the individual effort that is made by the nurses in teaching those who so much need it the value of isolation in contagion, the value of antitoxin in the cure of diphtheria and vaccination in small-pox, together with the value of the generous use of soap and water and general cleanliness of person and habit, is a gentle and valuable influence that cannot be coldly calculated in dollars and cents.

"I sincerely trust that your organization will receive such support in its life-saving work as will enable you to broaden the sphere of your usefulness."

We learn that it is the purpose of a local hospital at Chicago to emulate the success of the Mill Training School for male nurses in connection with "Bellevue," New York. There is every reason to hope that it will prove as valuable a feature in Chicago as in New York.

## 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.*



MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE'S eightieth birthday falls on May 12th, and any Nightingale nurse who wishes to have her name attached to the Address of Congratulation, which it is proposed to present to her, should write to Miss Gordon, Matron, St. Thomas' Hospital, S.E., so that her letter may be received by the 30th of April.

MISS SHIRLEY, the most capable Lady Superintendent of the Staffordshire Institution for Nurses, the Committee, and all concerned, are to be congratulated on the twenty-eighth Annual Report recently issued. The staff for 1899 comprised 101 private nurses, 12 district nurses, and 20 probationers. The number of cases nursed has been—on full terms 938, on reduced terms 26, gratuitously 13. The total earnings of the staff were £5,800 12s. 3d., and the balance in hand at the end of the year £1,003 19s. 9d. For the cases nursed gratuitously, or on reduced terms, £130 15s. 4d. was drawn from the Sick Poor Nursing Fund, a much juster arrangement of giving charitable help than reducing the earnings of the private nurses. The Committee also state that they have made it their care for some years past to divide among the nurses the greater part of the balance standing to the credit of the Institution at the end of the year. This year no less a sum than £770 will be so divided. The staff has lost through death, from phthisis, one nurse during the past year, another contracted enteric fever but made a good recovery. The Committee record their satisfaction in the continuance at her post of their Lady Superintendent. It is, they say, owing to her experienced administration, and her happy relations with her staff, that the success of the Institution is maintained. Those who know Miss Shirley will realize that this eulogy is well merited.

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How many District Nursing Associations possess bath chairs for the use of convalescents and cripples? It appears to us a very real need, now the summer is before us. Miss Emily

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