

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\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE development of the art of the science of nursing and the consequent benefit to patients, is nowhere more conspicuously evident than in the wards of our great poor law infirmaries, and anyone who has read the account of poor law nursing of thirty years ago in that most interesting book "Workhouses and Pauperism," by Miss

Louisa Twining, and compared it with the present conditions in a well ordered infirmary, must understand the inestimable benefit conferred on the thousands of sick who are cared for in these institutions by efficient nurses supervised by a competent Superintendent.

NOWHERE is this more evident than at the Lewisham Infirmary, where, under the able administration of Miss Lofts, supported by Dr. Toogood, the standard of nursing has reached a high degree of excellence. One has only to walk through the bright, well ordered, spotless wards to understand that in no case is the money of the ratepayers used to greater advantage than in providing such a haven of rest in illness and old age for the sick who come under their care.

THE reputation of the Lewisham Infirmary as a training school is high, and, indeed, it affords ample scope for a thorough all-round training. Being out of London, away from the great general training schools, it gets a much larger percentage of surgical cases than is common in poor law infirmaries, and its spacious and well appointed theatre, furnished with all modern appliances, is a source of justifiable pride alike to the Medical Superintendent and nursing staff. Again, on completing their three years' training, all the nurses have the opportunity of experience in the maternity wards, qualifying them to take the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society—a most valuable addition to a nurse's qualifications, and one which it is unusual for her to be able to obtain without paying a considerable sum for tuition. One leaves the Lewisham Infirmary with the conviction—firstly, that no greater boon can be conferred on the poor than by making such provision for them in time of sickness, and that,

secondly, the value of the training ground afforded by infirmaries is great, and that this should be utilised, for a well nursed infirmary is no more costly than a badly managed one. The reverse, indeed, is the case.

IN passing, we should like to draw attention to the restraint sheet at use at Lewisham in the wards for mental diseases. It is made of soft ticking, and is hollowed at the top so as to fit round the patient's neck. It is tied on to the bedstead and, while controlling the patient, it in no way interferes with his free movements in the bed. In use it is, we were informed, found to be most satisfactory.

THE Guardians of the Kingston Union, Surrey, have decided to make their new Infirmary a training school for nurses. A resolution was passed at their last meeting: "That application be made to the Local Government Board for permission to separate the Infirmary from the Workhouse, to appoint a resident medical officer, and to train nurses at the Infirmary."

THE appalling catastrophe at Galveston—involving the loss of thousands of lives and the almost total destruction of the city, is of a magnitude to which we in this country are strangers, but our heart-whole sympathy goes out to the sufferers in the Far West. Indeed, we are concerned in a very special manner with this disaster, for Miss Hanna Kindbom, an Hon. Member of the Matrons' Council, and Professor of Nursing in the University of Texas, was, until quite recently, if not up to the present time, Matron of the Galveston Hospital. The last we heard of her was that she hoped to take up work further east, and we sincerely hope that her plan was carried out, and that she was not in the ill-fated city at the time of the disaster; but until there is some definite news of her, her friends in this country must await it with great anxiety.

ONE of the most terrible things in relation to the catastrophe was the way in which the brute element in man came out. It was not until martial law was proclaimed and the better citizens called to arms that order was in any degree restored, and this was only accomplished by a series of executions, in which the negroes suffered most. The *Spectator* says:—"Galveston, though but just drowned, must have been like a city taken by storm. Regular soldiery appear to have arrived, and there was order once again, but it is at once sad and perplexing to see how little civilisation has done to paralyse

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