

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*\*\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



IT is with the greatest pleasure that we learn the Committee of the Nightingale Training School at St. Thomas' Hospital have decided to discontinue the award of gratuities to candidates accepted for admission after October 1st, 1900, and that they are considering the question of granting certificates to nurses who have satisfactorily passed through the appointed curriculum. St. Thomas' Hospital could scarcely inaugurate the new century in a happier way. This hospital, as the mother of training schools in this country, is worthy of all respect, but those who desire to accord it the regard to which, as the pioneer school it is entitled, have deeply regretted that this very fact has hitherto appeared to stand in the way of its advancement, and that the obsolete system of placing its nurses on a Register after twelve months' training, and of giving annual gratuities for satisfactory service, has so far been enforced. We most heartily and sincerely congratulate the Committee of the Nightingale Fund on their decision, which cannot fail to be productive of good results to the Training School.

DURING a recent visit to the Paris Exposition, that superb demonstration of French genius, we were greatly impressed with the fact that, from end to end of this most magnificent display of human ingenuity, the practical application of the Science of Nursing, that is the means of relieving suffering, was non-existent; whilst, on the other hand, hundreds of thousands of pounds had been spent by the great firms of life destroyers—such as Vickers Maxim, and Creusot—in perfecting and displaying their appalling inventions.

OF course, in the Pasteur Pavilion and in the Department of Hygiene, many appliances worthy of note were on view—these the inventions of male brains; and in the Army Pavilion the ambulances shown had been designed with every thought for the comfort of sick and wounded; also the Society *Les Dames de France* showed, in a tiny section, the appliances of first aid for

the wounded, and on their small "bateau" on the Seine a charmingly arranged little ambulance ship; but the Nursing Art was most conspicuous by its absence.

THE reason for this is not far to seek. Firstly, the British Commission in charge of the Paris Exposition arrangements, excluded women from the Committee, and did not even organise, as in the case of the Chicago Exposition, a Committee of ladies—many of whom were experts, and whose section in the Women's Buildings at the World's Fair was so highly praised. At Chicago, in 1893, the British Nursing Section was universally appreciated, and five medals for scientific work were awarded to the exhibitors therein. Is there not something terribly sad in the retrograde attitude of the Government in relation to women's work in this country, and something to be very deeply deplored by women, in having their special work, which is of such very great value to the community at large, ignored with contempt? We think so.

NO doubt, had the United States of America been nearer Paris, we should have seen a magnificent display of life-saving appliances, as well as the European "death dealers." We consoled ourselves with the hope that, at Buffalo in 1901, European nurses would see at the Pan-American Exhibition the result of the humane influence of women in the progress of nations.

A CHELSEA Infirmary nurse told us casually, the other day, that whilst she was in training at that institution, much indignation was aroused amongst the nursing staff, who each contributed a sum quarterly for papers, at the mutilated condition in which the *NURSING RECORD* was sent into the reading-room, for their perusal. Columns and half columns were constantly cut out by a well-known official in authority, before the nurses were permitted to read the paper for which they paid. "Of course," added this daughter of Eve, "one of us always hastened to procure another copy of the issue, so as to read the matter so unjustifiably extracted."

OF course! Such is human nature! We shall be interested to learn if a "gap" is found in this week's issue, by Chelsea Infirmary nurses. This pettifogging and senseless sort of tyranny naturally defeats its own end. The terror of the R.B.N.A. gang, of nurses reading the truth concerning their actions, would be amusing, if it were not so cowardly.

A LETTER appeared recently in the *Morning*

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