

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* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 been very pleased to receive forms signed in support of State Registration of Nurses from quite new sources. This is eminently encouraging, and we hope this week to receive many more signatures of readers really in earnest on this question. It is worthy of note that not one form has been returned in the

negative. The form for signature will be found amongst the advertisements on page vi.

Superintendent Sister A. F. Grist, Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, says that a woman, calling herself Green, has been calling on ladies in the Aldershot district and obtaining money on the strength of a statement that she nursed in Lady-smith and belonged to the Army Nursing Service. Sister Grist says that there is not, and never has been, in the Army Nursing Service a Sister of the name given by this woman.

THE *Daily Mail* resuscitates a gruesome story of the haunted seat of the Darrells, at Littlecote, near Hungerford. It is said that a certain Darrell, in a moment of fury, flung his newly-born son on a fire in what is called the blue bedroom. The nurse in attendance, who had been brought there from a distance blindfolded, managed to cut out a scrap of the bed curtain, and by counting the number of stairs was enabled to identify the house. She denounced the parricide, who was tried and condemned to death, but tradition says that he escaped by making a present of Littlecote to Judge Popham, who lived in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The shrieks of the baby and its mother are said to be still heard in the room in which the tragedy occurred.

WE can hardly believe that the story told by the *Empire* of the arrangements in force on the ss. *Britannic* which recently arrived at Southampton with 700 sick and wounded from Cape Town, is not a mistake, and we hope, for the honour of their cloth, that the Nursing Sisters at least will write to our contemporary and contradict it, if it is not true.

THE story, as at present told, is that—

“The saloon deck of over 120 feet by 9 feet on each side of the vessel was set apart for about fifty-nine persons—officers and nurses; while 679 men—all invalids still—took the fresh air and sunshine as best they could on three hatchways and two covered alleys 270 feet long by 9 feet wide. The alleys were washed down at 6 a.m. daily, and were always damp. Yet there were no seats, the men all had to rest on the wet deck. Rheumatism quickly developed. Sanitary accommodation was very limited. Water was only laid on for two hours daily, and there were but fifteen basins for the lot. When the soldiers were going to South Africa strong and well the officers gave up a half of their deck. When they returned with work and duty done, they were shut out from the fresh air and sunshine that would have been of the greatest help to convalescence.”

OUR contemporary goes on graphically to say:—

“Just imagine the scene! Fifty robust officers and skittish nurses monopolising the sunshine and upper space of a big ship—gaily flirting, drinking, card-playing, and skylarking. Stewing between decks in semi-darkness, with a scanty supply of water, were six hundred and seventy-nine men, all sick, all suffering from the effects of this horrible campaign!”

MAY the owner of a house use it as a Nursing Home without the consent of his neighbours? The point has been raised by Mr. William Graham, 11, Claremont Terrace, Glasgow, and others, who have brought an action against Mr. Alexander Shiels, M.B., C.M., 190, Bath Street, Glasgow, with the desire of obtaining an order interdicting him from using 12, Claremont Terrace, of which he is the heritable proprietor, as a hospital or nursing home. The pursuers say that they are the proprietors of five houses in Claremont Terrace, that these are of a very superior class, with pleasure grounds in front in which each has rights of property. That No. 12 has been fitted up by the defender for the treatment of medical and surgical patients, a staff of nurses has been engaged, and the drawing-room converted into a ward for patients, whom the defender regularly visits. The pursuers say that it is now in no sense a dwelling-house, but is converted into a trading place for money-making purposes, and they further complain of additional traffic, unpleasant sights and sounds, offensive odours, the danger of infection, and the inevitable depreciation of the value of the adjoining property. The defender claims to be within his rights in his use of the house, which he intends using as “a dwelling-house for a few better-class patients who may be benefitted by a more attentive system of treatment than they could obtain at their own homes.” He asserts there will be no risk of infection, no unpleasant sights, sounds, or odours.

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