

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* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 learn that our American colleagues are greatly pleased that with "a charming letter" from Lord George Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, appointing Miss Annie Arkle, Sister, Indian Army Nursing Service, a Delegate to the International Nurses' Congress. Our correspondent adds: "Lord George must be as nice as an American man," and those who know how generous and good the American man is to womankind, will realise that this is a very great compliment indeed.

Miss Annie Arkle was trained and certificated at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, from 1887-89, and acted as Staff Nurse from 1890-93. She had experience of Private Nursing till 1894, and from that date acted for two years as night-sister at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen's Square, London. Miss Arkle joined the Indian Army Nursing Service in 1896, so has five years' experience in the work, and will read a Paper on the Department at the Congress which will be very interesting, especially as to the training of native orderlies, which we hear is far ahead of the system we have at home.

Apropos of the defective training of the orderlies of the R.A.M.C., says *Truth*, I am told that the system in India, and the results, are very different. In the first place, far more care is shown in selecting suitable men for training as nursing orderlies. Having been selected, they are put through a month or so of stretcher drill and similar work, after which they are sent into the hospital wards, where they are taught nursing in a practical way under the eyes of the sisters and certified orderlies; they also have a lecture each day from the medical officer in charge. Further, as the cleaning of the wards, etc., is performed by natives, the nursing orderlies are kept entirely to nursing duties, and become correspondingly proficient in their work. I am told that on the average all these men are thoroughly competent and trustworthy, and, with the example

of India before them, there is the less excuse for the slipshod and inefficient system that has been allowed to exist so long in the Army Medical Department at home.

It is a question worth asking why, in the face of the serious condemnation that has been passed on the hospital arrangements in South Africa, none of the Indian orderlies have been employed in that country. There are several hundreds of them actually on duty, and as many more practically unemployed, and I have the authority of one of these men for saying that they would be only too glad to get a chance of making themselves useful in South Africa.

The fact that the two Miss Keyzers, well known in London Society, who organized their London house as a hospital for sick and wounded officers and adopting nursing uniforms, undertook the nursing of officers invalidated home, have been awarded the Royal Red Cross, has aroused a good deal of comment amongst those who came in contact with trained nurses in South Africa, who argue that those who have qualified themselves for their professional duty and borne the burden and heat of the day at the front, should have been singled out for this honourable distinction before two well meaning society women. Be this as it may, it must be remembered that the Royal Red Cross has constantly been given to the untrained, who, with social influence, have interested themselves in the nursing of soldiers. Surely nurses have learnt the lesson that the British system is not to honour merit, but rather to throw sops here and there to the clamorous. A witty woman has dubbed England, "the land of Almighty Mediocrity."

We believe it is all comfortably settled about "Bart's" bit of Christ's Hospital land, and that before long a Palace of Delights for nurses will arise on it. But Miss Isla Stewart has some strong and sensible views on Nurses' Homes, and while she advocates space, light, convenience, and comfort, deprecates useless luxury. How many years ago it seems now since we first began designing plans for the "New Nurses' Home" at Bart's, eighteen at the very least! It has been a most urgent necessity for the well being of the nurses all these years, and yet how many generations of nurses have lived laborious and happy days under the old régime, none the worse, we dare say, for unavoidable hardships. But the coming of the new Home is good news all the same.

In opening the new wing of Scarborough Hos-

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