

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*** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 are glad to learn that Miss Florence Nightingale, who is in her eighty-second year, and whose health has been causing her friends some anxiety, has now recovered from her recent indisposition and is in the enjoyment of fairly good health.

In view of the Investiture which His Majesty the King proposes to hold on the 17th inst., those ladies now in this country who have been appointed to the Order of the Royal Red Cross for services in South Africa, and who have not received the decoration, are requested to communicate at once by letter with the Under Secretary of State for War, if they have not already done so.

We learn that the Nursing Sisters, who are serving and who have served during the present campaign in South Africa, have subscribed the handsome sum of £300 for the purpose of placing in Cape Town Cathedral a stained-glass window to the memory of their devoted colleagues who have fallen during the course of the present war. The amount is a handsome one, and we rejoice to hear that those who have played a part in the campaign as many wearers of the V.C. will thus have their brave deeds recorded for all time to come.

A beautiful stained-glass window has been inserted in St John's Church, Ravenhead, St. Helens, to the memory of the late Miss Clara Evans, Army-Nursing Sister, late of the London Hospital, and who died of enteric at Bloemfontein in May of last year. Miss Evans was closely connected with St. John's parish, and the memorial has been specially designed for the sisters of deceased—Mrs. Joseph Massey, Miss Evans, and Miss L. Evans. The window was dedicated at a special service last Sunday.

A committee has just been appointed, at the Eastern Counties Poor Law Conference, which was attended by representatives of all Boards of Guardians in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, to draft a scheme for the treatment of pauper imbeciles, epileptics, and feeble-minded, separately from ordinary paupers. At present, these unhappy

people are either kept in the workhouse wards, or, if fractious, sent to lunatic asylums. Both practices are manifestly undesirable. In the former case no provision is made for special treatment of the afflicted patients, and their presence is undesirable for the sane, and especially for the old people who are compelled to associate with them. In the case of their being sent to a lunatic asylum this treatment is obviously bad for them. To place persons of feeble minds in association with those whose minds are deranged must be prejudicial to the well being of the former. There is no doubt that sooner or later, the imbeciles, epileptics, and feeble-minded must be treated in separate institutions, and the sooner this is done the better, in order that the reproach may be wiped out that this most helpless class is left without any provision for its special needs.

We are unable to deal fully this week with the enquiry held by Mr. E. B. Wethered, Local Government Board Inspector, at the Dudley Workhouse, into the charges preferred by the Guardians against Miss M. M. B. Newbury, Superintendent Nurse at the Workhouse, and the charges preferred by Miss Newbury against certain officials of the same institution. We shall refer further to the matter next week, meanwhile we congratulate Miss Newbury on the courageous way in which she is sticking to her guns.

We are sorry to learn that trouble has arisen at the Infirmary, Halifax, which has resulted in the resignation of the Matron, and the principal members of the nursing staff. This is greatly to be regretted.

A medical correspondent of the "Lancet," who has "personally suffered" from the practice, asserts that: Unscrupulous medical men make it a practice to tip the nurse in attendance handsomely in the hope (and more often there is an agreement on the subject) that she will recommend them to other people; further than this, it is by no means uncommon for the nurse to have a "supply" of the medical man's professional cards to distribute among her acquaintances. The sum paid varies from 1s. to half the confinement fee, and obviously it is not to the advantage of those women who make their living by "following the doctors" to call in those who do not make it worth their while. At the same time we do not believe that thoroughly trained and certificated nurses would condescend to tout for medical men any more than for undertakers. There are nurses and nurses. The correspondent of the "Lancet" probably refers to the two months' trained monthly attendant.



[previous page](#)

[next page](#)