

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 Queen is likely to pay a visit soon to the Herbert Military Hospital, Woolwich, for the purpose of opening the new quarters for nurses. These buildings are the outcome of the new scheme for the reorganisation of the Army Nursing Staff under the auspices of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Accommodation is provided for forty additional ladies who will supersede male nurses, and the organisation will be on similar lines to that obtaining in large civil hospitals.

Miss Lucie Heaton Armstrong, in "A Letter for Ladies," in the *Liverpool Echo*, writes:—The King has given Nurse Fletcher such a nice present—a beautiful watch! It is the *beau ideal* of a watch for a nurse, and it must have been chosen with great care. It is a gentleman's watch, only very thin, so it will be large enough to be really useful yet not cumbersome. His Majesty explained to her that he thought this would be the best kind of watch for her to carry, as she could see the time more quickly than if it had been an ordinary lady's watch. The nurse was truly delighted with the gift, and much touched that the King had considered the special circumstances of her life. In addition to the watch she had a present of money, and some pearl and turquoise buttons from the Queen. Greatest honour of all, the King shook hands with her when she left. So she has many interesting souvenirs of that terrible time when she was sent for to the Palace at a moment's notice to nurse the King through his operation. She knew nothing about it till she looked out of the window and saw one of the Royal omnibuses at the door, and the head of the nursing establishment came into the room and said, "You must go at once to nurse the King."

We are glad to learn that the Sectional Committee on Nursing of the Incorporated Institute of Midwives and Nurses' Club has during the past month met to discuss the vital question of Registration of Nurses. The Committee is of opinion that the question of Registration is one which should be taken into consideration and widely discussed by nurses, so that a consensus of opinion can be arrived

at. It was also felt that some means should be taken to ascertain the views of the large nurse-training schools in town and country.

From time to time the committees of the training-schools have been "sounded" on their views re Registration. Several are strongly opposed to any form of legal status for nurses, or protection for them from competition with the untrained; others have replied that registration of "trained nurses" is none of their business, as, once trained and certified, their pupils are free agents; and yet other schools are in favour of reforms and organisation.

But it is certain that training-school committees have never really given the time necessary to consider this important question in the past, and have opposed or supported the movement just as the Matron of the hospital inclined for or against Registration. But the medical profession and the public, as well as the more progressive Matrons, are now becoming alive to the significance of the question, and sooner or later will insist upon some measure of protection for themselves from the danger of untrained, unscrupulous, and disreputable persons having their "fling" as private nurses, which fling may include anything from murder to the Divorce Court.

Social amenities go a long way in popularising a hospital, and it is often due to the kindness and courtesy of the Matron that such institutions gain a good reputation, and to Miss A. E. Ough (the Matron) and the Sisters of the West Ham Hospital must be awarded just praise for the charming appearance of the hospital, when some 400 guests paid it a Christmas visit. The wards vied with one another in charming schemes of decoration, and in the women's ward (Withers), the nursing staff of which are all Irish, their patriotism was duly apparent—the "Wearing of the Green" was in full force, the shamrock embowered each bed, and the national flag was well to the fore.

It was altogether a very cheery gathering, and the visitors were evidently delighted. It should be known that the decorations and the special Christmas festivities do not entail any additional burden on the general income of the hospital. Mr. A. W. Scrivener, the Secretary, and Miss Ough, the Matron, have a special fund for such occasions, and their appeal for Christmas help has been very generously responded to.

A large and influential gathering assembled on Saturday afternoon in the out-patients' department of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, the occasion being the annual distribution of prizes and certificates to the nurses who have been successful in the examinations in anatomy, physiology, and nursing.

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