

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 authorities of the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, being unable to deal with all probationers for training as sick-berth stewards, the Royal Naval Hospital, Devonport, is to be recognised as a depôt for this branch of the Navy. Twenty-five probationers will be accommodated in all, and their training will be supervised by an additional surgeon (Surgeon G. Ley).

It is to be hoped that the Naval Nursing Service will soon be accorded the clearly-defined professional status of the Army Nursing Service. The Earl of Selborne, First Lord of the Admiralty, has had the same chance for professional organisation as his colleague the Secretary of State for War. It is a pity he has ignored the recommendations of trained nurses concerning their own affairs; our sick sailors suffer in consequence.

It was recently reported to the Southwark Guardians that the telephones were continually needing repair. The nurses did not appear to understand their use, and the boys and girls in the wards treated them as playthings. This is, of course, unjustifiable, but, under the present management of the telephone company, we are not surprised that the nurses fail to discover the use of the telephone!

At a recent meeting of the Exeter Guardians the question of supplying raw *versus* cooked rations to the nurses was discussed. There can be no question that nurses should be provided with well-cooked food served in an appetising manner. Unless they neglect their nursing duties they have not time to attend to the cooking of their own meals. Under a past régime, no doubt the fact that they were required to do so accounted to a great extent for the frequency with which liberal potations supplemented the unappetising rations.

We are in sympathy with the Rector of Bow, the Rev. Manley Power, who protested at the last meeting of the Poplar Guardians against their being charitable with the rate-payers' money. The Guardians adopted a recommendation from the General Purposes Com-

mittee that, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, they should contribute a sum of over £217 to various charities, including the London Hospital, the Consumption Hospital, Victoria Park, an ophthalmic hospital, an orthopaedic hospital, and the Royal Mineral Water Hospital, Bath. It is not within the province of Guardians to subscribe to hospitals supported by voluntary contributions, as they already maintain infirmaries out of the rates for such of the sick poor for whom they are responsible as need hospital treatment. We can conceive it legitimate for Guardians to provide the outdoor sick with a parish nurse, as they already do with the services of a parish doctor, thereby relieving the parish of the greater expense of the entire maintenance of many of the indigent sick. This might be done by subsidising the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, or by directly employing a nurse.

Colonel J. Elliot, writing to *Public Opinion*, from Toronto, earnestly appeals to all mothers, fathers, and daughters to shun trained nursing as an occupation, or means of getting a living, "as they would the most deadly poison." Including in his estimate both English and Canadian nurses, Colonel Elliot says:—

"In practice, many trained nurses can be described as under: First, they get trained into them a certain amount of medical skill, shaking up pillows, taking temperature, pulse feeling, and keeping records of the latter; secondly, they get trained out of them all the attributes which God has placed in the soul, heart, and mind of man and woman (especially in the latter), such as love, tenderness, gentleness, and such-like; thirdly, in the place of these Godlike attributes, they have trained into them callousness, coldness, indifference to the sufferings of others, independence, rudeness, impatience, self-opinion, will power in a wrong direction, and every other such-like opposite to the better part of a human being."

We think our contemporary right in its belief that its correspondent "over-states a case that, in the opinion of a good many people, is sufficiently serious if put with all possible reserve." Surely an officer in His Majesty's Army should have a greater sense of justice than to condemn in so wholesale a manner the whole profession of nursing. There are many who could bring practical proof that the above assertions are as wide of the mark as are most general statements. If for one day the modern nurse took Colonel Elliot's advice, the suffering caused to the sick would be incalculable, and the world would be the poorer by an inestimable amount of unselfish, devoted, and noble work.

In a letter addressed to the same journal, and signed "Esther Delaforce," the writer comments on Colonel

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