

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* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



At the annual meeting of the East End Nursing Society, held at the Mansion House, the good work was warmly advocated by the Lord Mayor, who remarked that when patients left the hospitals after surgical operations they were by no means fitted to look after themselves, and the nurses trained by the institution supplemented the work of the hospitals and infirmaries by attending the poor in their own homes. These nurses came as angels of light, and cleared up many of the troubles that afflicted the homes of the poor, and left them in many ways benefited. On these grounds he appealed for further aid from the public.

In the interests of future sufferers it is sometimes desirable that *post-mortem* examinations should be performed on deceased persons, but in every instance, in our opinion, the consent of the nearest relative should be first obtained in writing. By explaining the desirability in the public interest of such an examination, nurses can often induce relatives, who would otherwise refuse, to give their consent, but in every instance, whether in hospital or elsewhere, relatives should be authoritatively assured that without their consent such an examination will not be made.

Is a private nursing home a nuisance in a residential neighbourhood? In the case of *Ten Bosch v. Cohen*, Sir Samuel Hall, K.C., Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery of Lancashire, decided in regard to the Parkfield Nursing Home, Alexandra Drive, Liverpool (of which Dr. Stookes is the sole director and manager), after hearing arguments for and against this point, that there was nothing like a legal nuisance. He was satisfied that a number of persons in the neighbourhood said they were annoyed, but he was also satisfied that there was no solid ground for annoyance beyond the mere sentimental objection to such an institution being there at all. He thought, therefore, that the action failed on every ground, and dismissed it with costs.

In London, if a private nursing home is properly conducted, we do not think there is any reasonable ground for objection to it. At the same time care is required in order to avoid annoyance to neighbours. For instance, the lower panes of windows should

be filled with ground glass, or other means taken to screen them, if operations are not to be performed in full view of the neighbours. Also, it is not an uncommon practice in such homes to hang out of the back windows dusters and other small articles to dry, and to keep jugs of milk and beef-tea, &c., on the window ledges. These are not a pleasant sight from one's drawing-room window. In the country, in the present hyper-sensitiveness of many people with regard to anything connected with sickness and death, we can imagine persons feeling themselves aggrieved at the sight of invalids in a garden, or in bath-chairs in the neighbourhood. Still, if we are not prepared to consign all sick persons to a lethal chamber, they must be nursed somewhere.

Mrs. Heywood Johnstone is appealing for financial aid for an Association which, as a result of a recent Conference, has been formed to train and supply midwives for rural districts. The midwives chosen are to be homely women willing to help the patient, as much as they consistently can, in the cottage. We presume in the way of house work.

We hope the homeliness of the candidates will not weigh more in their favour than such necessary qualifications as intelligence to appreciate the principles of asepsis, and the methods of their application, as well as the necessity for strict personal cleanliness, or we fear the mortality in maternity cases will not be greatly diminished.

The term "monthly nurse" is one which is frequently used to describe the nurse who cares for lying-in cases, no doubt because such a nurse frequently remains with the patient for four weeks. The adjective is, however, somewhat arbitrary and inaccurate, for there is no reason why the nurse's services should not be dispensed with at the end of a fortnight, or retained for six weeks. It is entirely a matter of arrangement. Again, nurses who attend the artisan classes in their confinements as a rule pay a visit daily for ten days and then give up the case, as few working-class mothers can afford to lie up for longer. In our view, therefore, it is advisable to drop the term "monthly" nurse in favour of the more accurate one of "maternity" nurse. Moreover, do not the words "monthly nurse" conjure up a vision of the buxom friendly neighbour, whose qualification for the work is that she has had a "long family" herself, rather than of the modern well-trained woman, well acquainted with the dangers which, under the complexity of the conditions of modern life, beset the lying-in woman, and scrupulously and intelligently careful in carrying out the directions as to aseptic and antiseptic precautions given by obstetricians at the present day?

The work of the Birmingham Institution for Trained Nurses appears to be appreciated, as last

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