

### 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\* \* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 hope our readers are making a point of reading, week by week, the correspondence under the heading of "Nursing as an Occupation" in the *British Medical Journal*. Owing to the courtesy of the editor three columns of valuable space were assigned to this question last week, and State Registration again found whole-hearted advocates.

Last week we addressed to the editor of the *British Medical Journal* a letter on the subject of nursing education, in which we incidentally pointed out that there is a point at which medical and nursing education converge, and where they can usefully be conducted along the same lines; that medical students should receive expert instruction in details of practical nursing which they will eventually be called upon to direct, and that this instruction might be given in preliminary training-schools where students of both professions could be taught, amongst other matters, the theoretical principles underlying the practice of nursing, domestic science, and dietetics.

An eminent medical man shook his head over this somewhat daring suggestion, and prophesied the application of the editorial blue pencil to this particular paragraph—a prophecy happily unfulfilled. We are, therefore, glad to note that we are not alone in feeling the necessity for such instruction, and that a writer in the current issue of the *London Hospital Gazette* advocates in connection with the medical course at the London Hospital the establishment of lectures, demonstrations, and practical work in cookery, as well as of lectures and demonstrations on nursing "with a special view to teaching young doctors to justly and rapidly form a correct opinion on the work of the nurses who from time to time come under them."

We are glad to learn that the appeal of the Surgery Sister at Guy's Hospital for £500 to build a shelter in front of the surgery for the protection of women and children is meeting with encouraging response. We hope Miss Mudge may soon announce that the whole sum required has been received.

The Annual Report of the Managers of the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum District gives some interesting details in regard to the nurse-

training school connected with the Sick Asylum. During the year two examinations of probationer nurses were conducted by Mr. H. P. Dean, F.R.C.S., and twenty-four candidates passed the examination and received a certificate of training. Fifteen nurses were examined in sick-room cookery, in connection with the Cookery Classes held at the Asylum under the auspices of the Technical Education Board of the London County Council, of these thirteen passed and two failed.

A list of the officers and servants in the Managers' service shows that the nursing staff comprises, besides the Matron, two Assistant Matrons, ten Sisters, two Night Superintendents, one night nurse, eight staff nurses, and sixty-nine probationers. It is interesting to note, in connection with the expenses of the nurse-training school, that the sixty-nine probationers in training, besides receiving in each instance board, lodging, washing and uniform, cost the Managers in salaries £1,055. This is of special interest at the present time, because it is often brought forward as an argument against State Registration for Nurses that, with the accordance to them of a definite status by the Act of Parliament, the cost of nursing will increase. There is little doubt that a registered nurse will be able to command a salary of more than £30 per annum, not at all an unusual salary to pay to a Ward Sister, whose responsibilities include the efficient performance of medical directions in regard to the sick, the organisation and management of the ward duties, and the training of probationers. On the other hand, with the organisation of nursing, and the definite recognition of the training-schools as educational agencies, it will probably be realised that it is contrary to all educational precedent to remunerate pupils for receiving a valuable education and, consequently, in the present instance, a very substantial increase might be made to the salaries of Ward Sisters and fully-trained staff nurses from the thousand and odd pounds now paid to probationers, and the Guardians would still have a considerable margin of profit to expend on developing the system of nursing education. We are not suggesting that at the present time this is possible, but we do suggest that the effect of Registration will be to prove that the unskilled probationer is at present a well-remunerated worker, and, therefore, that if the effect of Registration is to increase the value of the fully-trained and responsible nurse, the aggregate cost to an institution of maintaining an adequate nursing staff need, and probably will, not be more than at present, while undoubtedly its efficiency will be increased.

A long discussion took place at Sheffield with regard to the Guardians' proposal to become subscribers to the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and it was eventually resolved that the sum

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