

## 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\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 have to thank friends over seas for kind remembrances or invitations to be with them on various festive occasions. Let us assure them that in spirit we are there and enter fully into their pleasure and good work accomplished.

The *Lancet* is responsible for the statement that "the medical and surgical staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital has always felt and said that the amount of land recently acquired is not sufficient for all that is wanted, as a large part of the new ground is to be taken up with the new nursing home. In the opinion of the staff the nursing home should be removed outside the actual hospital walls, in the same manner as it has already been decided to remove the residential college. In that case the staff considers that all that is likely to be required for many years to come could be arranged on the site now available."

This very deplorable expression of opinion is one in which we cannot believe that practical members of the medical staff concur. Buildings for the resident medical officers and the nursing staff should be in close proximity to the wards, and unless they are so placed the special duties which both have to fulfil must be accomplished under the very greatest inconvenience and discomfort, both for officers and patients. If space cannot be found on the present site to provide house room for doctors and nurses, then let the Governors realise at once that more ground must be bought, or the efficient care of the sick will be an impossibility.

The new nursing home, so long an urgent necessity at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, should be built to meet the increasing requirements of a modernised hospital, and must bear comparison with the hundreds of beautiful, spacious, and healthy homes which of late years have been erected in connection with every hospital which professes to be a training-school for nurses both at home and abroad.

A quite incredible rumour reaches us that it has been suggested that, if erected on the present site at all, the new Home at Bart's should be built on the narrow strip of land but a few feet wide—on which the present tumble-down old houses occupied by

the warden and resident staff stand—which skirts Little Britain, where the road is so narrow that every passing conveyance bespatters the dingy frontage with mud two storeys high, and where air, light, and rest are not to be procured by any means whatever. Rumour, we know, is a lying jade, so let us hope that she has once more excelled herself in her lack of veracity. The suggestion could not be entertained for a moment, unless the Governors propose to return to the era of "extras"—those snuffy old women who, gowned in brown bombazine, with black chenille caps worn rakishly awry, "did a bit of nursing" on night duty in prehistoric times, and of whose mother-wit we always had a keen appreciation.

Since the Midwives' Act was passed in 1902, various societies are actively organising to help make it useful to the community. The late Association for the Compulsory Registration of Midwives has been reconstructed, and as a central bureau will give information on all matters concerning midwives, training scholarships, &c.

Miss Alice Gregory and Lady George Hamilton are trying to evolve a scheme for the "higher training of midwives," giving eighteen months' training in general nursing and six months' district midwifery—a two years' course.

The Rural Midwives' Association has been formed by Mrs. Heywood Johnstone, its objects being "to train and supply midwives for rural and provincial districts where required, and for associations wishing to add them to their staff, to give assistance in training and otherwise in special cases." The office of this Society is at 47, Victoria Street, S. W.

We have before expressed the opinion that through the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses a system of supplying well-qualified midwives to urban and rural districts might be evolved. When the "obstetric nurse" becomes a practical possibility the midwifery of the poor will be included in her duties. Everything points to the evolution of this indispensable class of worker. But time must be allowed for her production.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Heathfield and Waldron Nursing Association, Miss Amy Hughes said that the question of nursing aid in sickness was one which affected all, from the millionaire to the pauper. Obviously, they wanted the best nurses that they could get for the work, and it was sound economy to employ the most skilful nurses. There were many reasons given, she continued, for the deterioration of the race, but, as a nurse who had been in and out the homes of the people, she did not hesitate to say that the ignorant and mistaken kindnesses of the mothers of England in the manner of feeding their young children had a great deal to do with it. It was not because

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