

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* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



It is officially announced that the examinations of the London Obstetrical Society will henceforth be discontinued, and intending candidates are referred to the Central Midwives' Board, which in June will hold its first examination of midwives. The line of demarcation between midwives and nurses is thus distinctly drawn. Those who wish to qualify as midwives will present themselves for examination to the Central Midwives' Board, while nurses who desire a certificate which testifies to their proficiency as maternity nurses will no doubt avail themselves of the examination in maternity nursing instituted by the British Gynaecological Society.

A terrible suicide took place last week at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington. A female patient named Lutton jumped from the top floor window of one of the surgical wards, and was killed instantly. The fall was between 60 and 70 ft. Watching patients who are "odd," and may go off their heads at any hour, is one of the most important duties of a night nurse, so that the small staff of nurses on night duty allocated by some hospitals, because there "is so little to do in the night," is a very unwise policy.

Experience proves that an invalid kitchen attached to a District Nursing Association is immensely helpful and very popular. Appended to the report of the Southport and Birkdale District Nursing Society we find it stated that the work of the Invalid Kitchen department has very considerably increased during the year, 14,070 dinners having been provided, as against 10,836 in 1903. While the Committee gladly realise that this proves the increasing usefulness of this branch, they would point out that it has entailed a considerable increase in the expenses of the Society. Owing to the fact that by far the larger number of dinners are given free of charge to the Society's patients, the kitchen can never be self-supporting. While it exists for the benefit of these patients, the Committee do not wish to restrict it to their use only; they are glad to provide and deliver dinners (except in infectious cases) on the receipt of an order from outside, for any length of time. The Committee take this opportunity of once again offering their sincere thanks to the band of lady carriers who, by their devoted service, make the carrying on of this branch

possible. They would also make an appeal to any ladies who have the time, and are willing to devote two hours one morning a week to taking the dinners to the homes of the sick, to give in their names at the Invalid Kitchen, 18, Post Office Avenue.

The Sunderland Tramways Committee have agreed, subject to the approval of the Town Council, to grant tickets at reduced rates to the nurses of the District Nursing Association. The condition attached to these cheap tickets is that "the statutory maximum fare not being charged, the passenger is carried on condition that he or she travels at his or her own risk, and that the Corporation are not responsible for any loss sustained by such passengers."

The Plymouth Board of Guardians have been requested to furnish the Local Government Board with a copy of the precise charges against Superintendent Nurse Holliday, who they requested to resign without, it appears, a thorough and impartial inquiry. It is to be hoped that the House Committee to which the matter was referred will conduct its business in a more official manner for the future. Nurse Holliday refuses to resign, and demands that the Guardians shall specify their complaints against her, so that she may have an opportunity of defending herself—a very sensible course.

A series of special services for hospital nurses are taking place in Dublin churches at eight in the evening, and are being well attended.

The House Committee of the Clonmel Workhouse have failed to restore peace between the nuns and lay nurses, and the Board refused at its last meeting to have matters sifted by a sworn inquiry upon the request of Nurse Smyth. So, no doubt, the friction will continue, to the disadvantage of the patients.

Miss Ida Campbell, writing to *League News* from the Hôpital de la Marine, Soulina, which is just at the mouth of the Danube, one side looking over the river, the other over the Black Sea, says:—

After landing we were introduced to several people who had come down to meet us on the quay, the doctor of this hospital being one of them, and another the only Englishwoman besides ourselves in Soulina.

Introductions over, we walked to the hospital, and were shown our quarters. Here was another pleasant surprise; two large bed-sitting rooms and a smaller one for meals, &c., with the most delightful outlook over some open land, and with a full view of the sunset, a much more gorgeous affair even than in England. The air is so marvellously clear, and the sun so much brighter, that even with several degrees of frost it is difficult to realise how cold it is. It is considered very healthy in winter, but in summer, especially July, August, and September, there is great danger of fever if one is out after sunset.

After properly admiring our rooms, we proceeded to the hospital, and here was our best and greatest surprise of all. Instead of the early Victorian place

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