

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Dr. Charles Gilmore Kerley says that the physician can in no possible way serve the nation better than by teaching the mothers of the nation how to rear the children of the nation. It is the physician who comes in deliberate contact with the daily family life, and who speaks and they believe. The physician is the physical guardian of the rising generation, and determines in a great measure the character of the spiritual, commercial, and political life of the nation; in fact, he aids the people of the nation to receive what they have a right to demand. As a result of his having lived, and lived nobly, there will be happier homes, fewer disappointed lives, and less crime; in such a capacity, and from a standpoint of national work, the physician is the most important member of the community in which he resides. A more valuable man to the State or nation than a man in any other calling, who prepares the soil, and without sound bodies and normal minds, sacred and religious teachings are of little avail. Where a nation shall stand twenty-five or fifty years hence, and what position it shall occupy among the nations of the earth, depend more upon the physician of to-day than any other calling whatever.

Prominent amongst the published names of the supporters of the new nursing paper are to be found those of the extreme anti-Registrationists, Miss Lückes, Mr. Sydney Holland, and Miss Spencer, of Edinburgh. So the statement issued that it will not deal with nursing politics must be taken *cum grano salis*, if by nursing politics the promoters mean that the nurses' point of view and interests will only be presented when they have filtered through the collaborators who are avowedly opposed to their co-operation for professional purposes, and it is not difficult to realise the reactionary influence which a paper so conducted must assume.

Its *raison d'être* is not far to seek. "Burdett has re-rattled on the Registration question, his paper is not to be depended upon," a prominent "anti" remarked to us not long since. "So the plums of hospital patronage are to be dropped elsewhere," we suggested. "*Nous verrons*," was the reply. Anyway, each prospectus which has reached us makes it quite clear that "business," and not sentiment,

philanthropy, or the interests of trained nurses, is the aim and object of the laymen who are about to compete for our patronage and our pennies. This very human and commercial bill of fare is more palatable to our taste than the sickly *compôte* we nurses usually have dished up for our delectation and delusion whenever there is anything to be made out of us.

The importance of a nurse always being on duty in the wards of hospitals and asylums, so that the patients may never be left alone, has received emphasis from three recent tragedies.

1. A patient in the Lancaster County Asylum, who was about to be bathed, was left by the attendant "for a few moments." Returning, the attendant found three other patients carrying out the bathing process, with the result that the patient died from scalds.

2. A nine-months-old infant at the Liverpool Workhouse Hospital was, according to the finding of a coroner's jury, killed by a boy of five. The nurse left the ward "for a few minutes," and the boy, who is said to be suffering from moral insanity, crammed a piece of bread into the baby's mouth and kicked it. The nurse on her return found the infant's face black and swollen, and it died subsequently from meningitis and pneumonia. The jury recommended that the children in the wards should not be allowed to wear thick boots.

3. In the Monaghan and Cavan Asylum on April 23rd, about 10 p.m., when the patients in the institution were retiring, a quarrel took place between two female patients who have been twenty years in the asylum, during which one of them struck the other several blows with an enamelled vessel on the head, with the result that she died twenty minutes afterwards from compression of the brain. An inquest was held on the next day, the jury finding that death was due to the injury done to the brain by the wounds to the head.

Surely if public institutions undertake the care of the sick and insane, they are morally bound to make such arrangements for their supervision that it should be impossible for such patients to be done to death by their fellow patients. If one nurse leaves the ward another should always take her place, even if the absence is only temporary.

A jumble sale arranged in aid of the Nourishment Fund of the Blackburn and District Nursing Association resulted in £72 being handed over to the Fund. The Fund supplies milk, beef-tea, and other nourishment to the poorest patients, and prior to its reinforcement had become quite exhausted. Probably only doctors and nurses know how necessary such nourishment often is to patients of the poorer classes, more necessary sometimes than drugs.

At a recent meeting of the St. George's Guardians, held at Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, the Work-

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