

## 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\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 meeting of the Hospital Sunday Fund, held at the Mansion House on Monday, the meeting approved of the eligibility of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, the London District Nurses of the Bible Women and Nurses' Mission, and the North London Nursing Association, Holloway Road, for participation in grants from the Fund. The principle of the eligibility of District Nursing Associations for grants from the Fund having been established, other applications can now be considered as they arise, on their merits. We hope that the Sunday Fund will require evidence of the maintenance of a definite standard of training for nurses on the part of participating institutions.

An extra week's holiday has been granted to the nurses at the London Hospital. Mr. Holland made this welcome announcement to the nursing staff assembled in the College. This is a matter for congratulation, as one month out of twelve might very well be conceded by hospital managers—it gives time for a little trip abroad, and is the best of investments where health is concerned.

Old London Hospital Sisters will learn with interest that "Stacey," a veritable Mercury in their day, was recently presented with an address and many handsome gifts, upon his retirement after forty year's loyal service to the Hospital. Mr. Morris, the Secretary, in an illuminating speech, touched on prehistoric times (not so very long ago), and showed the marvellous contrast in hospital management accomplished in the last half-century.

To quote the *London Hospital Gazette* :—

"Benjamin Stacey joined the hospital in 1865, and spent his first eighteen months as dispensary porter. He was then transferred to the front entrance, and there from his stool has watched the ingress and egress of hospital patients for over thirty-eight years.

"In 1866 he passed through the terrible cholera epidemic, an epidemic so bad that four wards,

Harrison, Turner, George and Baker, were set apart for these cases. People died in such swarms that the old P.M. Room, which was but little bigger than Stacey's present box, was inadequate, and the bodies were piled on the floors of a small building which stood where the College now stands. The carpenter, clever man, was kept busily employed making deal coffins, and the bodies were removed eighteen at a time to Ilford. Two old soldiers were engaged to bury in the fields behind the hospital the refuse and unclaimed bodies, which in those days were numerous; these fields, renowned for their pasturage, brought in a large rent from farmers who grazed their sheep there.

"In those days there was no Nursing Home, and each nurse was expected to provide her own food. The nurses were old women who came from outside each day, and they were after the type of our present scrubbers, veritable Mrs. Gamps. Each evening they met in the kitchen to hear the Matron say prayers. Many were dismissed for drunkenness!"

Mr. Alfred Rothschild, Treasurer of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, has given the nurses an upright grand piano, made by Messrs. Broadwood. The instrument bears a silver plate recording the generosity of its donor. The nurses have sent a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Rothschild for his "most welcome gift."

On December 13th and 15th Dr. Joscelyne gave demonstrations of the machinery and working of the Röntgen rays, high frequency battery, and other electrical apparatus at his residence in Taunton. The meetings were attended by a number of members of the Nurses' Social Union from the surrounding neighbourhood, who greatly appreciated Dr. and Mrs. Joscelyne's kindness and hospitality.

The nurses dismissed from Gartloch Asylum have now laid their case before the Glasgow Trades' Union, of which they attended a meeting. Mr. Alexander Haddow, a former member of the Parish Council, said that the nurses at Gartloch worked under conditions which, compared with those existing in the infirmaries was as night is to day.

One of the nurses said it was a hardship that five nurses should have been picked out of 63 and dismissed as ringleaders. They had merely signed the communication to the doctor with the rest, but had not sent a private apology to him, and that was why they were dismissed.

The Chairman, Mr. Ross, said that if instant dismissal were to follow a statement of grievance it was a terrible state of affairs for the rate-payers to consider. He proposed that a committee should be appointed to inquire into the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)