

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*** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 will be remembered that under the scheme of the Committee appointed by Mr. St. John Brodrick, then Secretary of State for War, on Army Re-organisation, the Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (created by Royal Warrant in March, 1902, as a result of the recommendations of this

Committee) was given a seat not only on the Nursing Board of the new Service, but also on the Army Medical Advisory Board, "acting as a member of the Board whenever matters concerning the Nursing Service are under discussion." This arrangement commended itself generally as a wise and just provision, and it is greatly to be regretted that in the members of the Advisory Board, as recently re-constituted, the Matron-in-Chief is not mentioned, and seems to have been quietly dropped out. It may be said that this Board has little to do with nursing affairs, but it is certain to be consulted on matters of importance with regard to the Nursing Service, and as the Matron-in-Chief has only acted as a member of the Board when matters concerning the Nursing Service are under discussion there can be no possible reason for dropping her from the Board except that it does not consider itself in need of her advice.

It is announced that existing vacancies for Staff nurses in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service will be filled at once. Applicants must be of good social position, and between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five, and must possess a certificate of not less than three years' training and service in medical and surgical nursing in a civil hospital of not less than 100 beds, and recognised by the Advisory Board. Full particulars as to the conditions of service, and forms of application for admission, can be obtained by applying to the Secretary of the War Office, Whitehall, or personally to the Matron-in-Chief, at the same address, who will see candidates on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Many of the nurses on the private nursing staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital are, we learn from the Sister-in-Charge, Miss Marcon, availing themselves of the opportunity now offered to them of working on the co-operative basis. Like other associations formed on these lines, they will pay the institution 7½ per cent. of their earnings, and if they choose to live at the institution between their cases, can do so at a most moderate charge, that is, assuming there is room, for, of course, the nurses on the staff have the prior claim. It is a matter of great interest to us that Miss Isla Stewart, the present Matron of the Hospital, should have placed before the Committee the desirability of the co-operative system for private nurses, for when the institution was founded, twenty years ago, during our term of office as Matron, we then proposed the adoption of this system as the most equitable one for nurses, but in those days the idea was quite a novel one, no institution then existing on such lines, and the Committee at that time did not see their way to it.

Other changes are impending, for the house at 13, West Smithfield, which has been the headquarters of the private nurses ever since the institution was founded, is shortly to be sold with other property of the hospital. Various alterations will make it possible for the private nurses to live within the precincts of the hospital, and before long they will move to the other side of Smithfield.

The boxes which the private nurses can now take out to operation cases when desired, are still upon their trial, the last one being a distinct advance upon the first two. So far they have been much appreciated, and seem likely to prove a great boon to patient, surgeon, and nurse. To the patient because, for the moderate charge of one guinea the nurse can bring everything necessary for the operation with her, to the surgeon because the box is opened in his presence at the time of the operation, so that he is assured of the sterility of the contents, and to the nurse because the preparation of dressings and other things used at the operation is above suspicion.

Tuesday last was "pound day" at the General Lying-in-Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, a most admirable yearly custom when friends and well-wishers of the hospital who visit it carry with them some useful article, thus helping to lighten the housekeeping bills for weeks to come. Tea, coffee, sugar, rice, oatmeal, all these were welcome gifts and were gratefully received by the Matron,

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