

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 are glad to note in a useful little hand-book issued by the Royal Maternity Charity of London that the midwives on its staff will, in future, be selected as far as possible from fully trained hospital nurses. As the number of applicants is largely in excess of the vacancies it seems likely that the Charity will be able to maintain this high standard of qualification, which is, without doubt, the ideal one.

A very pleasant garden party was given by Miss J. A. Smith, the Matron of the Kingston Union Infirmary, last week, at which many members of the Kingston Nurses' League, as well as other visitors, were present. Tea was served under the trees, and those who went down from town watched with pleasure the games of croquet and tennis which were being played with much keenness, while they enjoyed the fresh air which sweeps round, as well as through the infirmary. The flower beds looked their brightest, and everything contributed to make the afternoon a most pleasant one.

A great source of amusement was the "smelling competition." Suspended from a ribbon attached to two trees were 18 little bags, containing such things as iodoform, camphor, coffee, tea, carbolic, etc. Competitors were invited to "smell, but not touch," and then to record their opinions of the contents of the bags on a piece of paper provided for the purpose. It sounds simple. But let those who think so try it. They will then reverse their opinion.

The wards of the infirmary came in for a great deal of admiration. The floors were beautifully polished, and the flowers most artistically arranged. Best of all was the air of happiness and contentment which pervaded them. One thought of the condition of workhouse infirmaries when Miss Louisa Twining first endeavoured to improve them,

and could but be thankful that the indigent poor, in sickness and extremity, are now cared for with kindness and skill by well trained nurses in the majority of our poor law infirmaries.

Dr. Helen McMurchy, the Editor of the *Canadian Nurse*, has, as one of the delegates to the International Congress on School Hygiene, recently been paying a visit to the Metropolis. She is interested in the care of feeble minded children, and it was in connection with the section on this subject that she was sent to the Congress by the Canadian Government. Dr. McMurchy is keenly interested in nursing matters, and fully understands the importance to nurses of their own professional journals.

An appeal has reached us, signed by Earl Cawdor, the Hon. Mrs. Wellesley, Mrs. Humphry Ward, Archdeacon Sinclair, Mr. Alfred Hoare, Treasurer, and the Rev. E. C. Bedford, Chairman, on behalf of the Children's Sanatorium, at Holt, Norfolk, for the treatment of phthisis. It gives us pleasure to give publicity to this appeal, the more so as we know that down at Holt, caring for the children and working for the home in her own inimitable way is Miss Marian Rumball, for so many years Sister at the London Homœopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, W.C. Those who know Sister Marian know how keenly interested she is in the question of sanatoria for tuberculous children, the urgent need for them having been learnt by her in long years of experience as Sister in the children's ward of a London hospital.

The writers of the letter say: In all great movements the hope of the reformer rests on the children, but we seem to be content to let consumptive children live or die unheeded. The longer we do so the greater grows the danger to the community, for every infected child is a centre of infection for others. The economic conditions which have led to the massing of populations in towns and cities may not be alterable, but we must make some effort before the health and vigour of our national life is sapped away by the grim and widespread pestilence of consumption.

The adult has been rather well cared for in the last few years. Large sanatoria have been completed, or put well on their way, at Midhurst, Northwood, Benenden, Frimley, and Davorz Platz (for the better-to-do)—besides several smaller institutions. The children have been little thought of.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)