

Nursing Echoes.



The usual descriptive and historical lectures will be given in the Church of St. Bartholomew - the - Great, West Smithfield, on Saturday afternoons, October 17th and 24th, at half-past two o'clock. All parts of the building will be thrown open for inspection without charge, but a collection will be made for the reduction of the debt incurred in carrying out the work of restoration. The church is of special interest to nurses as it contains the tomb of Rahere, the founder of St. Bartholomew's Hospital close by.

Candidates for the Nursing Examination for the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland of proficiency in nursing and attendance on the insane, should note that the last day on which they can enter for the examination of the Association to be held on November 2, 1908, is Monday October 5. Schedules may be obtained from the Registrar, Dr. Alfred Miller, Warwick County Asylum, Warwick. The Medico-Psychological Association has done good work in systematising the education of asylum nurses and attendants, and its certificate is sought after, and recognised, as a guarantee of efficiency for these workers.

The article by a "Registered Teacher" on the subject of the "Medical Inspection of Schools," in the *Westminster Gazette*, has been followed by one from a medical point of view, signed M.D. Camb. and M.D. Edin. With much of this article we are in agreement, and the statement that "it is no part of a nurse's duty to diagnose, nor should she be expected to do so," is irrefutable. No one would more heartily endorse it than the London County Council School Nurses themselves, who under the present conditions of insufficient medical inspection are doing useful work in trying to persuade the parents of children whom they believe to be in need of medical treatment, to consult a medical practitioner.

In the above article the complete re-organisation of the whole system of medical inspection of schools is advocated, the number of medical men appointed being sufficient to ensure that each child is adequately examined,

at least once a fortnight. A very desirable system if it can be accomplished, but the difficulty to be faced by the London County Council is increased expense to the ratepayers, for as the function of the medical practitioner is to diagnose disease and to direct treatment, and its application is entrusted to the trained nurse, a large increase both in doctors and nurses would be necessary were this scheme carried out.

The suggestions embodied in the article are: (1) That inspection by nurses shall be abandoned. (2) That the inspection shall be carried out by medical men in special rooms and more or less privately. (3) That a sufficient number of medical men and women be appointed to ensure the regular and adequate inspection of all the children. (4) That the doctors appointed shall produce evidence of special study in certain specified subjects, *e.g.*, (a) Diseases of the eye. (b) Diseases of the throat and ear. (c) Diseases of the skin. (5) That a final court of appeal for the whole of London should be constituted by the selection of a few specialists of known standing who would be prepared to give an opinion in difficult and doubtful cases. (6) That the appointments of the inspectors be made by a committee acting in conjunction with an advisory board on which the medical profession is largely represented.

The *Contemporary Review* for September contains an interesting article by Miss E. S. Haldane, LL.D., on "Sick Nursing in the Territorial Army," the newest branch of the Military Nursing Service, and one which must appeal to the patriotism of every trained nurse, for it is concerned with the nursing of the sick and wounded of the Territorial Army in the event of the invasion of this country by a foreign Power. Should this ever be accomplished, which Heaven forbid, then a time of stress and danger must ensue, in which every nurse will desire to play her part. But, to form part of the great organisation entrusted with the honourable duty of caring for the country's wounded defenders in time of war, a nurse must be enrolled in time of peace, for the lesson of the South African War has been taken to heart, and the hasty enrolment of nurses who may prove eminently undesirable when sent to the seat of war is to be avoided in the future; and the credentials of all who desire to join any branch of the Military Nursing Service are to be carefully sifted by the Nursing Board of that Service, which is directly responsible as a branch of a State Department for their suitability and

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