

they have undertaken to solve. That is why, speaking on behalf of the Nursing community, we cannot accept their proffered good offices, notwithstanding that we should greatly like to see the fund which the liberality of the donors has provided turned to good account, in accordance with the givers' intentions."

NURSING ECHOES.

* * * *Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

THE letter from "H. M.," which appeared in our columns last week, has drawn attention to a very important subject, and one the importance of which will probably become more and more, instead of less and less, pressing as Nursing advances in popularity. For it is quite certain that, in two ways, this will lead to the profession becoming overcrowded. It will draw an ever increasing number of well-educated women to join the ranks. And it will tend to make them adopt it as a life work, instead of drifting back, as so many have hitherto done, after their training was ended, into home duties, varied by occasional spells of "holiday duty" at their old Hospital. Then this overcrowding necessarily will not only vastly increase the difficulty of obtaining regular employment, but will inevitably tend also to lower the salaries paid. It is an economic law, as old as the hills, that when the supply exceeds the demand, prices fall.

THERE is certainly one thing which greatly enhances this inrush into the Nursing profession—the system which prevails, at more than one of our large Training Schools, of taking shoals of Special Probationers, who pay a guinea a week for three or six months, any one of whom, at the end of her short experience, can pose as a Trained Nurse; and many of whom not only do take the title, but at once offer their services to tend the sick public in that capacity. Another great blot to my mind is the system of two years' training, turning Nurses out as certificated at the end of that term, and replacing them with successive multitudes. I believe it would enormously benefit Nurses, and Nursing too, if no Hospital gave a Certificate for less than a three years' training; because not only would fewer women annually leave the Training Schools, to swell the numbers of outside workers, and increase the keen competition amongst them, but they would do better work, because they would be so much the more experienced when they left their *alma mater*.

A KIND correspondent writes me as follows:—
"It will interest many of your readers, especially old Bart's Nurses, to know the changes which have just occurred there. Miss Rose Dickenson, the well-known and generally popular Sister John, has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the General Infirmary, at Bradford; her Staff Nurse, Miss Brancker, has been nominated for, and elected to, the post of Matron of the General Hospital, at Newark. Miss Freeman, who won the Gold Medal last November, and who has been acting as Night Superintendent, has been appointed the Sister of John Ward. And, finally, Miss Maud Wisden, the Gold Medallist at the examinations last May, has succeeded Miss Freeman as Night Superintendent."

MR. EDITOR asks me to apologise here for a mistake which was made in the announcement of the Prize Essay Competition, last week. Miss Dannatt was there called the Matron of the Lincoln County Hospital, whereas it is well-known in the Nursing world that the lady who holds that post is the energetic and popular Miss Beachcroft, and that Miss Dannatt, who has contributed so many interesting and valuable articles to these columns, is not at present in active work, but formerly held the important post of Matron of the Royal Infirmary, at Manchester. Mr. Editor says he cannot understand how the mistake arose, and desires to express his regret at its occurrence.

I AM also requested to state here that, in deference to the desire expressed by many of our readers and subscribers, the subjects for three subsequent Prize Essays will, in future, be announced together, so as to afford intending competitors more variety and longer time than hitherto for their preparation.

FOR October the subject has been chosen, "Describe in full detail how a Nurse can spend her holiday"; for November, "Give a description, with full details, of the uniform and most suitable clothing for the Nursing Staff of a Hospital"; for December, "Describe a complete curriculum of training for a Nurse in a Hospital containing upwards of 200 beds." I hope that this will result in even more of our readers joining in these Competitions than has hitherto been the case.

IN deference to another request, I will each week draw attention here to the vacant posts advertised for Matrons, Lady Superintendents, or Sisters. This time I have to remind my readers that Matrons are required for the General Infirmary at

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