

WE have to thank many friends for letters received during the past week, containing, as they do, words of encouragement and offers of help. They have been warmly welcome, and press of work alone must be our excuse for apparent ungraciousness in leaving any of them unanswered. Many of these letters contain "Echoes" of much value, which will be touched upon in future issues.

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WRITING on recreation, one correspondent is good enough to mention the subject of the advantage of a comprehensive library in the organization of a nursing school, and as it will be the aim of this journal to review, weekly, those books which are of educational value, and worthy of a niche in a carefully chosen library, the following paragraph may be found of use to Nursing Institutions which have not yet arranged a library for their Nurses. Its organization is to be specially commended as it is formed upon co-operative and self-supporting lines:—

"We have now about 1,050 volumes in our library. It is managed by a Committee of Sisters and Nurses, the Matron being permanent chairwoman (and, indeed, it is owing to her initiative and sincere interest in our comfort and happiness when off duty, that we are enabled to enjoy the delights of the best literature of the day). Membership is open to any member of the Nursing staff upon payment of one shilling a quarter; we are thus enabled to spend on new books, daily and weekly papers, and magazines, upwards of £8 every three months. We have a carefully considered system of book keeping, and all volumes are given out to the Night Superintendents at stated times. No book is permitted to be placed in the library, even if given as a present, without the consent of the Committee. We buy at least one book of reference each quarter."

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A TRAINED Nurse who has been widely engaged in lecturing on nursing, writes:—"When lecturing, I found the practical part was most eagerly taken up, from which I have formed the opinion that there is an opening for a "coach" for Probationers, who would instruct them in the practical details of Home Nursing. I am, therefore hoping to get pupils for this purpose—the enclosed advertisement will show how I hope to work the scheme:—

"TO PROBATIONERS WAITING for HOSPITAL VACANCIES, or Others DESIROUS of INSTRUCTION in HOME NURSING.—From November 1st, a Lady (M.R.B.N.A., Registered Nurse, late Lecturer for the National Health Society) will be glad to GIVE TECHNICAL TEACHING and INSTRUCTION in the practical details of NURSING WORK (including invalid cookery) to two girls, sisters or friends preferred, for periods of six weeks or longer. Terms, including board and residence in a lovely village in West Somerset, two guineas a week each. References of the highest order, professional and social, given and required. Miss M. PINCOFFS (Nurse Marian), Dunster, Somerset."

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It is presumable that in the near future the Nursing "Coach" may become a real factor in the education of our Nurses—as there is much techni-

cal knowledge that women desirous of being trained as Nurses might acquire before entering a Hospital ward—and by acquiring which, they would be very much more useful than the present inefficient system of home-training makes them.

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WHO knows? Gazing down a vista of coming years is it merely imagination, or those events which cast their shadows before them, that suggests the preparatory college for Nurses, where that imperative virtue of cleanliness is exalted into an art, and where those who enter for a full curriculum will emerge with a definite knowledge of the elements of chemistry, anatomy, and physiology, the most perfect methods of making deftly all those items of comfort for the sick, and minor surgical appliances, which have now to be picked up in the precious hours of actual attention upon the patients, when the whole power of body and mind should be concentrated on the suffering fellow-creature alone, and exerted to procure for him the best and most comfortable means of recovery. This is a subject of illimitable possibilities in the matter of discussion.

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ABOUT this period of the year, the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association receive a letter from the Office, enclosing a cutting from last year's *Register*, which they are requested to overlook, correct if necessary, and return at once to the Secretary. The methodical ones act promptly, probably answering by return of post, understanding that the entry in the Register never varies (or should not do so), a Nurse being entered on the list, upon certified terms of training, and the entry cannot, therefore, be progressive and record a Nurse's further experience. A *Register* must not be confounded with a *Directory*—both extremely useful and interesting publications.

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PERHAPS, having posted off her corrected slip, for entry in the forthcoming issue of the Register, the Nurse may be somewhat surprised, about the same period, to receive another letter containing a slip for correction; she looks, finds it almost identical with her entry of registration, and concludes two have been sent by mistake, and scatters the latest edition to the four winds. This is a mistake; one appeal comes for the *Register*, from the office of the R.B.N.A., and one from the Editors of the *Nursing Directory*, a work corresponding to the Medical Directory, in which Registered Nurses are entered, and in which each year a Nurse may have her professional career traced, a record of her work being

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