

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.



It is good news for the poor of Windsor that Princess Christian's District Nurses' Home has already out-grown its domicile. Although it has not yet been open a year, we hear that additional rooms have already had to be procured outside.

In this week's *Queen*, under the heading of Professional Women, on their

Professions, Miss DE PLEDGE is interviewed on Infirmity Nursing, and our readers will rejoice to hear of the wonderful improvement in the Nursing of the indigent sick poor, which has now been accomplished in many Poor-Law Infirmaries where a Trained Matron is in charge. It is characteristic of Miss DE PLEDGE that, even in her portrait, she should appear with "Randolph," her well-known, much-beloved, tawny terrier. Indeed, "Randolph," is the hero of the Chelsea Infirmity, well worthy of a prominent position in the life-saving *clientèle* of the Lord Mayor's Show. A few weeks ago, a fire broke out in the Matron's apartments, which was discovered by the sagacious doggie, and he called loudly for help—barking furiously—until he attracted attention from the attendants whom he guided to the spot, and thus prevented what might have been a serious disaster.

THE Nurses of the North London Association will hold a sale of work at their head-quarters, 413, Holloway Road, N., on December 7th and 8th, from 3 to 6 p.m. This most useful Nursing Association is greatly in need of funds, and deserves encouragement.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—

"I have just returned from a six months' tour in the States, and your quotations from *The Trained Nurse* in last week's Echoes, have interested me much. Being a trained Nurse, I naturally gravitated towards the leading Hospitals in the cities which I visited, and can quite endorse your opinion 'that, in America, professional matters have not yet quite advanced to our state of organisation,' and also that 'the American Nursing Schools begin on a more advanced level than we do at home.' During my tour, which included the majority of the great eastern cities, and Chicago, I had the pleasure of speaking with many of the Superintendents and leaders of Nursing thought in the States. I also made a point of exchanging opinions with many young graduate Nurses; the former, in the majority of cases, I found strongly imbued with the spirit of individualism, estimating her own school as the pivot upon which Nursing in the States revolved; the latter, although universally devoted to their *Alma Mater*, were almost without exception wishful for professional co-operation, and were keenly alive to the danger of unskilled

and half-trained competition. These graduate Nurses have usually been trained for two years, examined and certificated at the principal Hospital in the town where they then elect to work; their names are registered at a central directory (or register office), and they are mostly well-known to many of the medical men in the place; by this means their work is superintended and their personal characters under observation. It is only in the larger cities like New York and Chicago, and out West, that they become, as it were, submerged; but then it must be borne in mind that it is only within the last five years that the great majority of American training schools have sprung into existence, and that the graduate Nurses have not yet, to any wide extent, felt the pinch, and guessed the disastrous results likely to accrue from competition in the open Nursing market, of the inefficient semi-trained Nurse. With comparatively few exceptions, the 'failures,' the inefficient Probationers who have left their Nursing schools, because they were unsuitable persons to train into good Nurses, have not yet assumed the title and uniform of a trained Nurse, and entered into cut-throat competition with the qualified woman. The tone of Miss Sumner's article on 'Quack Nurses,' in *The Trained Nurse*, shadows forth the tone and action which will be speedily adopted by the certificated graduates as soon as the evil makes itself felt—and such a condition of things as exists at home, where the Committees and Matrons of so called Nurse training schools consider it justifiable to utilise unskilled Probationers in competition with certificated Nurses, for the purpose of increasing the funds of the Institution, would not be tolerated for a day.

"Speaking to a New York Superintendent of the successful and splendid work of the Royal British Nurses' Association—in setting itself the task of organising the profession of Nursing, and attacking existing abuses—she replied "nothing can be done in the States until all the Superintendents of all the training schools agree, and at present they are very timorous, and I may add ignorant, on the question of a State legalised profession. We are, however, watching the progress of the Royal British Nurses' Association in England with keen interest, and have little doubt that its success will have indirectly a very beneficial effect upon the future organisation of Nursing in America."

"One great step in advance has been adopted; our American colleagues have got press representation in *The Trained Nurse*, ably edited by Miss Sumner, and in it I rejoice to see that the Nurses themselves are beginning to agitate for a Professional Association and National Badge; if American Superintendents are wise, they will read the sky signs, and they will combine to associate and guide the great body of graduated Nurses, who are now in greater numbers year by year going forth certificate in hand from the various schools, to work as private Nurses all over the land. The desire of these women, for professional association and control is a worthy one, and it is the duty of their leaders to sympathise with and help them to accomplish their object—State registration and protection for the professional thoroughly trained Nurse."

THE Holland Institution at Nice is about to open a branch Institution for English Nurses in Paris, where it will have to compete with the Levick Institution. Rumour says the latter business is managed and controlled by a young man. How about trespassing upon the preserves of working women? Mr. Walter Besant should busy himself with this question, or, better still, as there is known to be remunerative work for Nurses amongst the American colony in Paris, why does not the Nurses'

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