

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



ON Friday, the 15th inst., the first of a course of lectures to the Nurses was delivered at the National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart and Paralysis, by Dr. GEORGE COHEN, the Resident Medical Officer. These lectures, which it is intended shall be delivered weekly throughout the winter months, besides traversing the ground of elementary anatomy and physiology, will include practical instruction in bandaging and minor surgery.

THE Honourable GEORGINA SCOTT, the eldest daughter of Lord POLWORTH, is undergoing a course of training at the Mildmay Mission Hospital at Bethnal Green, and is most zealous and enthusiastic in the performance of her duties.

THE Committee of the County Hospital, York, have lately extended the complete term of training for their Nurses to three years, so that, for the future, no certificates will be awarded for a less term of training. This decision must be most gratifying to the retiring Lady Superintendent, Miss Forrest. As a zealous member of the R.B.N.A., she has naturally desired to see this high standard of training inaugurated; and we feel sure that Nurses and patients of the York County Hospital will speedily appreciate the change.

WE hear also with satisfaction that the trustees of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, at Baltimore, are considering the advisability of extending the course in the training school for Nurses from two to three years. This is more important than at first appears, because Johns Hopkins stands, with a limited number of American Hospitals, in the front rank in Nurse training; and what the trustees of this important Hospital inaugurate one day will be speedily followed by sister Institutions on the next. We consider the short terms of training in many American Hospitals one of their chief defects, as it affects the thoroughness of work, owing to lack of clinical experience.

MISS EDITH PRETTY and Miss WARD, both Registered Members of the Royal British Nurses' Asso-

ciation, the former a certificated Nurse and Out-patient Sister at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, are about to open a Home Hospital in Beaumont Street, W. They have promises of excellent medical support, and after many years of experience and hard work, deserve to succeed in their new venture.

We cannot but hope that ere long medical men will cease to support the hybrid institutions presided over by women who, never having spent an hour in a Hospital in their lives, are totally unfitted to perform the responsible duties which in their ignorance they assume so lightly; and will recommend their patients to those "Homes" (of which there are a number) superintended by duly qualified professional Nurses. The etiquette in the Nursing profession is now becoming so well defined that Nursing quacks are as objectionable to the thoroughly-trained and conscientious Nurse as the blatant "bone-setter" and prescribing chemist to the qualified medical man.

A TIMELY warning comes to us in the following letter from an honoured correspondent:—

"After any great overstrain, there usually comes a strong reaction, and frequently there is a tendency to collapse. It would often, perhaps, be well if we bore this fact in mind in relation to other things besides mental and physical exertion. As a nation we are very given to 'ride a hobby to death,' and it cannot be denied that Nurses and their doings are one of the hobbies of the day. The result is that there seems to be a danger just now of hero-worship, as regards Nurses, being carried to excess. It is to be feared that the deteriorating influence of over-adulation is beginning, in many instances at any rate, to have a bad effect. Even long after the time of 'Mrs. Gamp,' tending the sick was regarded by a large majority as a means of livelihood only, and as a form of servitude, equal perhaps to that of a domestic servant, but many ranks lower in the social scale than the exalted position of a governess. That we have 'changed all that' there cannot be a doubt, but it is an open question if we have not rushed into another extreme, and, it may be, placed too high an estimate on the position of a Nurse. In solid truth, the profession of Nursing is an honourable one in all ways, and full of infinite opportunities. Also, it is hardly possible to have too high a standard of the qualities desirable in those belonging to it. Idealization, however, is not reality, and the more visionary we are the greater our disappointment when we are brought face to face with stubborn fact. Nurses are but human after all. To over estimate their powers, mental, moral, or physical, is a very grave mistake, and must inevitably tend to disastrous results, both as regards their patients and themselves. We are not 'angels with iron backs,' soaring far above all earthly frailty and impervious to fatigue. Moreover, we are not doctors either, in whose hands, humanly speaking, hang the issues of life and death. It is very desirable that the public should realize this; also that they should recognize the fact that the better trained a Nurse is, and the more experienced in her work, the less will she in any way encroach on the doctor's prerogative, or be ready to give her opinion as to the present and future state of a case. Nurses, like other people, must learn wisdom by experience, and one of the risks of their present standing is, that it is apt to make individual Nurses forget their completely subordinate position. No one is entirely uninfluenced by the tide of public opinion,

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