

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



WE learn from several correspondents that they have greatly enjoyed reading Mrs. STRONG'S Paper, "A Plea for Uniformity of Education in Nursing," printed in our last issue, and we feel sure that all Nurses would benefit by doing so. As one of those who were present at the delivery of this excellent address, we feel that we gained much beyond the text of the Paper—much that it would do us all good, to take to heart.

ONE great lesson for us all is contained in the paragraph, where Mrs. STRONG remarked:—"After nearly thirty years' experience of Nursing, and in dealing with Nurses, I am impressed with the idea that we are only beginning to realise what the art of Nursing may become if proper means are used for its development." These are most significant words, inspired by a most significant *spirit*—the spirit of knowledge—knowledge of human nature and of life. We shall do well to consider well these significant words, and gain from them the great and useful lessons they teach—that life means progress or death; pigmy humanity is always struggling with the beginnings of things; to-day's wonder is to-morrow's fact; and the most fatal attitude of mind to all progress and scientific truth is to be content with work accomplished yesterday, and, so to speak, walk backwards with eyes fixed on the past. When we hear persons fatuously remark "It is quite perfect," we must shun those persons as leaders and teachers. The words "divine unrest" have a greater truth and beauty of expression than humanity, sluggish and inert, in the abstract can define. Let us Nurses recognise that we are professionally "only beginning;" and then a hopeful future will unfold before us. No laws extant can determine the finality of Science.

AND again, another lesson taught us by Mrs. STRONG, is the irresistible force of moderation. No drastic limitations, no absolute laws. "The Glasgow Royal Infirmary School for Nurses is now arranged in such a manner that it can, at any time, adapt itself to legislative demands without in the least interfering with its ordinary routine." What a lesson for those Hospital authorities who

twenty years ago adopted a narrow routine of Nurse training, presumably adapted to a now obsolete age, but which, even to-day, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, "altereth not." Medical and surgical science may make great strides, the world generally may progress at electric speed, but Nursing, forsooth, say some, must always lag behind in the narrow rut of self-satisfied ignorance! We owe to Mrs. STRONG and the able Governors of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary a deep debt of gratitude for the force of their example and for their demand for a public examination of their Nurse pupils.

It is also gratifying to observe that the curriculum of practical training in the wards at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary has been extended to a full term of three years. This term will also, we hear, soon be inaugurated at the Homœopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, and at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge; and we heartily congratulate the Committees of these Institutions in granting this immense advantage to their Nurses. As the profession of Nursing each year necessitates a greater amount of theoretical knowledge, it is of the utmost importance that the Nurse's practical experience should also be extended and be made as thorough as possible.

WE have received several sad letters from ladies practising massage, to the effect that such discredit has been brought upon their work by the publication of the scandals in connection with it, that they can no longer with self-respect continue to practise massage, and are, therefore, in great distress. We are truly sorry for them, but feel sure that the journalistic enterprise of the *British Medical Journal*, in exposing abuses which the police ought to have nipped in the bud long ago, will, in the end, prove very beneficial to skilled operators in massage; and during the present crisis we should advise them to continue quietly performing their work, strictly under the direction of medical men, and to refuse under all circumstances to massage any person of the opposite sex. This has always appeared to us to be very undesirable for many obvious reasons.

CANON ERSKINE CLARKE, Chairman of the Nurses' Home, Marmion Road, Lavender Hill, S.W., writes to the Press:—"May we call the attention of your kindly readers to the needs of the South London District Nursing Association? In the course of last year our skilled lady Nurses paid 25,971 visits to the homes of the poor to carry out the instructions of medical men, who in most cases had called in their aid. We need a fresh stock of old sheets, blankets, flannel jackets, shirts, water and air pillows, linen and cotton rags, and appli-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)