

Nursing Echoes.

* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



MANY happy returns of the day to Miss Florence Nightingale, who will reach her 75th birthday on Wednesday, May 15th. We must all reserve a sympathetic thought for the happy day she will have, with the consciousness of a past well-spent in a noble cause, and a future lived in the hearts of the whole Nursing world.

THE Duchess of Sutherland is conferring a great boon on the sick poor of her county. She has gone to Dunrobin Castle to make arrangements for a huge bazaar to be held there in October, to provide funds for the placing of a Trained Nurse in every parish in the county. If a Nurse is once established in a parish the benefit to the sick is at once recognised and local efforts are generally forthcoming to support the scheme. A working-class penny a-week or penny a-month subscription soon adds up to a considerable sum.

GREATLY to the satisfaction of the members of the Nurses' Co-operation, Miss Hicks, the Lady Superintendent, has withdrawn her resignation. The candidates for the post—and their name was legion—received this intimation from the Secretary a few days since, thanking them for the honour which they had conferred upon the Society by applying for the post.

A COUNTY Council Nurse-Lecturer writes:—

"I was very glad to read Miss Kenealy's Lecture on the sham or inefficient Lecturer. The County Councils have too long permitted themselves to be imposed upon by frilled caps and fussy uniforms, as represented in photographs, &c. It is hoped that in future, County Councils will turn to the Royal British Nurses' Association Directory for Nurses, so as to verify the qualifications of candidates for the posts of Nurse-Lecturers. I have myself, although a fully trained Nurse, and qualified also in the higher branches of Hygiene and Sanitation, been frequently 'undercut' and 'under-sold' by women whose knowledge of Nursing is of the most 'smattery' description—whose general education was of the 'scrappiest,' but whose claims were preferred to mine because they were so much 'cheaper.' They had spent neither time nor money on their education, and their unskilled labour had no intrinsic, or, for the matter of that, extrinsic value."

Happily there are many County Councils who make conscientious enquiries with regard to the qualifications of their lecturers. Cambridge-shire, Lincolnshire, Durham and many other County Councils, have raised a high standard, while, speaking generally, in Bucks, and in many districts of Herts and other counties, the teachers of Nursing are merely probationers.

THE "fitness of things" particularly applies to Nurses' uniforms. It is a growing custom, and a very ugly one, to see Nurses in uniform wearing *brown* boots or shoes. Now it is impossible to imagine any kind of foot gear more unsuitable to the somewhat conventual garb adopted by most Hospitals and Institutions. But the offence was capped a day or two ago, when we saw a Nurse, whose costume otherwise was most conventional and charmingly neat, but whose feet were encased in brown shoes tied with black laces! The only uniform that would admit of the wearer being shod in brown "foot-wear," as the Americans call it, would be that in which a brown bonnet and cloak is worn, and even then the style is always suggestive of the seaside.

Some Nurses have written to us on this very point, and have asked our advice as to the redress of what they regard as a grievance; viz., that the servants whose business it is to "shoe-black" for the Nurses' Home, will persist in applying Day and Martin's very blackest, as a suitable dressing for brown shoes! One Nurse remarks, rather pathetically, "Undoubtedly when the brown shoes are showing somewhat the worse for wear, the blacking really makes them look quite presentable."

But it should be accepted as a conclusive axiom, that black shoes are the very fittest to be worn with uniform.

"PROGRESSIVE Nurse" writes:—

"All the Nurses of this Hospital—and though we are rather small and somewhat provincial, we rather pride ourselves on our up-to-date principles, and watch any progressive step taken by the Royal British Nurses' Association with jealous pride—have been holding a somewhat mild rejoicing over the proposed Directory for Nurses, to be issued by our Chartered Association. We emphatically hail it as a step in the right direction. When we are taunted by the 'unbelieving Thomas' type of Nurse, and are sarcastically asked what tangible benefit accrues to us from the payment of our subscription and our membership in the Association, we can now point out that, at least, we have accomplished one very important step in the Directory which will separate the sheep from the (scape l)-goats of the profession."

EVERYTHING is done with brains, from the Budget issued by the Chancellor of the Exchequer,

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