

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE Chief Rabbi, Dr. Adler, accompanied by Dr. A. Eichholz, paid a visit on April 1st to the Chelsea Hospital for Women, and, after inspecting the provision made for the treatment and dieting of Jewish patients, expressed himself "extremely delighted with all the arrangements made to heal the ailments and to soothe the sufferings of our sisters."

MR. CHAPLIN, President of the Local Government Board, will receive a deputation from the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association, on April 15th, at 2.30 p.m., at the House of Commons.

A NEW Nurses' Home in connection with the London Hospital is being erected in Mount Street, and is connected by a corridor with the old Home. There are eight floors to the building. The ground floor is to be used as a sick ward for the Nurses; the top floor will be used for the Nurses' lockers. Throughout, the new Home is admirably planned.

At the Wolverhampton Board of Guardians a proposition was brought forward for an increase of the Nursing staff by the addition of four probationary Nurses, thus bringing the number up to twelve. Dr. Bailey remarked that the displacement of pauper labour in the wards by paid and responsible servants had resulted in great economy and general advantage. For instance, the cost of wines and spirits used in the Infirmary had declined from £193 in 1891 to £61 in 1895.

Whereupon Mr. Price distinguished himself by stating that "it was absurd to have twelve probationary Nurses, and only one head Nurse capable of taking charge. It was better to have old pauper washerwomen to attend the sick than a number of giggling young girls who had no experience. The Probationer Nurses paid more attention to each other than to the patients. The patients required older persons to attend them."

We quite agree that "giggling young girls" are not suited to nurse the sick, but it would be difficult for Mr. Price to prove that the term is deserved by the average young Probationer.

Mrs. Hatton denied that there was any ground for complaint as to the manner in which the Probationers took their instruction or attended to patients. Mr. Cope said that "he found that each paid Nurse required, as a rule, three paupers to carry her about."

Notwithstanding these expressions derogatory to Probationers and trained Nurses, four new Probationers are to be appointed. But it would certainly have been a better arrangement to have two trained Nurses and ten Probationers. That more supervision of the patients is necessary is proved by the terrible tragedy which recently took place at the Wolverhampton Infirmary.

THE amount of friction in Workhouse Infirmarys arising between Masters and Matrons and the Nursing staffs will make it incumbent before very long, on the Local Government Board, to enter thoroughly into the question, to reconstruct the system, and to thoroughly define the relations and duties of both officials. The whole question of Workhouse Infirmarys and the necessary reforms required therein will have to be faced, and the sooner the better.

When difficulties come before the Guardians, they listen to both sides, and generally end up with a general recommendation that the disputants should try and work harmoniously. But that does not place the axe at the root of the difficulty, and fresh and ever-recurring troubles disturb the peace of these anything but happy families.

JUST now there appears to be a revulsion of feeling in favour of training male Nurses. And there is no question that the employment of men in some cases is most desirable. At a recent meeting of the Exeter Guardians the Board resolved, "that the employment of male Nurses was now out of date, and that female Nurses are employed in all public Institutions." Male Nurses certainly cannot be called "out of date," since they never came very much into vogue.

A SOMEWHAT amusing incident lately occurred at a meeting of the Hull Board of Guardians, at which the *Western Morning News* remarks that, "Governor Sharp, with undoubtedly the best intentions, sought to make the Infirmary a kind of Matrimonial Agency!" It appears that recently the Board took into their service a young woman, whose ability and devotion to work has secured for her a prominent place in the estimation of the Master and others connected with the Union. They would be loth to lose her, but the young woman contemplates matrimony.

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