

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



WE are glad to see that the Medical Superintendent of the Marylebone Infirmary has written to the *British Medical Journal* on the evil effects which may be the result, in the nursing in Poor Law Infirmarys, from the unjust Superannuation Bill lately passed into law; but we cannot quite agree with him that "Under the new régime it is to be apprehended that many (Nurses) resenting the deductions of a percentage of their pay which they have earned, but of which not a penny will reach their pockets, will dispense with this training so necessary to their efficiency. The result of this will be a steady deterioration in the quality of nursing, and we may find ourselves once more within reasonable distance of the standard of which Mrs. Gamp is the immortal type."

Training in our Poor Law Infirmarys has greatly improved of late years, but the great Training Schools in connection with our general Hospitals lead the van of progress and will take care that Nursing does not "revert to type," whatever retrograde steps may be taken in connection with the Poor Law, in which, until we have women on the Local Government Board, we cannot hope for much improvement.

It is to be regretted that Dr. Lunn and the Managers of the Marylebone Infirmary have always taken a most active part in opposing Registration of Trained Nurses, a policy which women who value professional status think even more retrograde than that likely to result from the passing of the Superannuation Bill.

A CORRESPONDENT writes, referring to our suggestive remarks concerning Nursing Lectures in Tottenham:—"During this last winter, from September, 1895, to Easter, 1896, there were Nursing Lectures held in Tottenham every week—but alas! they were not appreciated by its inhabitants. I can safely say there were not more than six "Tottenhamites" who attended these enjoyable and well-rendered lec-

tures, and the remaining few were people coming from several stations off. Much as I enjoyed this course on Nursing, I feel bound to say Tottenham does not deserve such an advantage again. It was appalling to see—as so often happened—only four or five people present at these lectures, which began 7 p.m.—a time when every woman of the working class ought to have been there. So we can only conclude how very content that class of people are to live in ignorance and ignore such valuable lectures."

This inertia upon the part of "working women" is much to be regretted, but when one realises the ignorance on Nursing and Hygienic matters of the "educated" classes, one can hardly blame our hard-worked sisters for their lack of energy.

THE Board of Guardians of the Lambeth Infirmary have expressed their approval of the action of the medical officer, in bringing about the dismissal of a scrubber, for purchasing and giving a German sausage to a patient on the "danger list." The latter, who was progressing, became in a critical condition, through continuous vomiting and gastritis, the result of eating the sausage. "This case," added the doctor, "makes it necessary to deal severely with those who break the rule which prohibits food or drink being brought to the Infirmary from outside."

GREAT credit is due to Dr. C. A. Greaves, medical officer to the Derby Workhouse Infirmary, for the care and thought which he has expended in improving the system of Nursing at that Institution. From his half-yearly report presented last week to the Guardians, we gather the following satisfactory information:—

(1) Ventilation and warmth of the sick wards are sufficient. (2) Cooking and distribution of the sick diets are satisfactory. (3) The sick-wards are in course of being painted, and the number of patients has been reduced as far as practicable to allow of this work being done. (4) The supply of towels and clothing for the sick is adequate. (5) There are now eight water-beds in working order. They are all in use, and I may shortly have to ask for one or two in addition. (6) The supply of hot water has improved lately, and is fairly sufficient. (7) The nursing is satisfactorily performed. At the date of my last report arrangements were in progress to complete our staff of Nurses and Probationers independently of the Nurses' Institution, the Probationers being engaged on the terms which had been approved and adopted by the Board. These arrangements have now been carried into effect, and our Nursing staff is now constituted as follows: Head Nurse, Miss L. Godwin; Charge Nurse, Miss E. Flavell; Night Nurse, Miss J. Mercer; Staff Nurse, Miss A. Taylor; Assistant Nurses, Miss G. Cureton and Miss A. Price; Probationers, Miss L.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)