

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 *British Medical Journal* gives an interesting report by Dr. Turner of the successful preventive treatment of "the scourge of St. Kilda" which has for so long roused much attention in the medical world. The record of the terrible "eight day sickness," as the St. Kildans call this infantile tetanus, begins in the year 1764. And the disease has,

since then, carried off upwards of 67 out of every hundred children born.

It has been suggested that this high mortality "is a wise provision of Providence for preventing a redundant population on a rock where food is limited," but it occurred to the Rev. Angus Fiddes, the minister of St. Kilda, to apply to the Glasgow Sick Poor Nursing Association for one of their Nurses to go to the rescue of the poor mothers, who were naturally much distressed at the terrible mortality of their infants.

Nurse Chiswhall went for a time, and returned in 1892 to Glasgow. Since then it has been impossible to find a Nurse willing "to banish herself for a year to the land of feathers"—as this wild sea-girt rock whose industry consists in the fowling of sea-birds who build there in incredible numbers. It appears that the minister, Mr. Fiddes, has himself—under medical advice—been acting as Nurse, and has most successfully grappled with the foe. Strict attention has been paid to the antiseptic treatment of the umbilical cord in the new-born infants. Mr. Fiddes himself buys new flannel to swathe the infants in—these hitherto having been wrapped in old pieces of not too clean blanket. Bromide in one grain doses is also given during the first ten days after birth. Mr. Fiddes, in his last report, states: "In this way I treat the infants, with the result that none have been lost."

THE various uses, both fraudulent and commercial, to which Hospital uniform may be put, has frequently been commented on in these pages. The Nurse is used as a pictorial and picturesque advertisement for various quack medicines and massage establishments. She figures in Hospital Sunday and Saturday processions, and street collections. Her uniform is donned by

nurserymaids, and adopted by the lady-helps and companions of semi-invalids, who think it gives them some distinction to be attended by a "Nurse in full Hospital uniform." Women in the garb of Nurses have also "touted" from house to house, advocating the use of and selling patent medicines. Now it would appear that she is going to join the ranks of the commercial traveller. At least the Nurse who inserted the following advertisement is anxious to "take to the road":—

WANTED.—SITUATION AS TRAVELLING SALESWOMAN for a firm dealing in medical and surgical supplies, by a Trained Nurse who has had much experience in Hospital work. Address

WE are sorry to see that at a meeting of the Kensington Board of Guardians, when the question came up of the values to be placed on the "emoluments" of the several officers for the purpose of the contributions to be made by them under the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, Mrs. Brandreth moved an amendment to the effect that the emoluments of the Matron of the Infirmary be reduced to £100, the same as those of the Matron of the Workhouse.

The Matron of the Kensington Infirmary is one of the most valuable and indefatigable workers in the Poor Law, and it is an unpardonable affront on her to suggest a deduction of her salary. And it is another evidence of what we have repeatedly pointed out as being one of the marked tendencies of Women Guardians—that is, to reduce salaries to a minimum. So many women Guardians say, "Now, what is the least possible we can get this work done for?" instead of which the argument should be, "What is the fair and just remuneration for the worker, for the work she is called upon to do."

Mrs. Brandreth evidently needs enlightenment on more than one point, and she specially requires to be reminded that the work a Matron of a *Workhouse* has to do should not be placed on an equality with that of the Matron of an Infirmary. The one represents housekeeping and unskilled work generally; the other stands for highly skilled and technical labour, which is quite another thing.

THE Countess of Winchelsea, President of the Lincolnshire Nursing Association, for which she has worked most enthusiastically, very kindly entertained the Lincolnshire Nurses at Haverholme Priory, Sleaford, last Monday. Haverholme Priory is a beautiful place, and is well known for its hospitality, so that it is needless to add that the Nurses had a very pleasant time.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)