

## 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\* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 hope that all our readers will read, and earnestly consider the important letter addressed to this Journal by Miss Sophia Wingfield, the late Matron of the Macclesfield Infirmary, concerning the question of admitting untrained persons as members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and also placing their names upon the Register of Trained Nurses.

We are in warm sympathy with her public-spirited action, and we call upon every registered Nurse, who values professional status, who honours her profession, and who desires to see the sick protected from untrained attendants, to loyally support Miss Wingfield in her courageous opposition to the disastrous official policy, which if successful, will retard the progress of skilled Nursing for years to come. We would ask each reader to do all in her power to be present at the suggested public meeting, and to make it known amongst all their friends.

A MEETING of the committee composed of Matrons of Poor Law Infirmarys who are preparing to memorialise Members of Parliament concerning the clauses which they consider injurious to the Nursing interests in the Poor Law Superannuation Act, met on Wednesday, the 2nd inst. It was agreed to take active measures to obtain reform, and a guarantee fund was contributed. This looks like business—we never pay unless we have strong convictions concerning a question. This injurious Bill is a Clerk's Bill, organised by clerks for clerks, and the opposition of the Matrons is just. The story of the manner in which this Bill was rushed through Parliament, and the lack of opposition on the part of the Nurses, shows how necessary it is for Matrons and Nurses to organise for the protection of their own interests, and we are glad that the Poor Law Matrons have united. It is better late than never.

THE Editor will feel indebted to Matrons and Sisters of London and provincial Hospitals if they will kindly send an intimation of their Christmas and New Year's programmes. It is

always interesting to Hospital workers to hear of the pleasures and amusements which mark the festive season in other Institutions. And it is also a great boon to learn of novelties in Christmas entertainments—for Hospital staffs are always at this season in search of those "new things" which we are told do not exist "under the sun."

COMPLAINT has been made in one of the papers that "Dr. Jim" has been taken to a Nursing Home which is not in a "quiet neighbourhood." In this City of street noises it would be difficult to find a really quiet resting-place either for the well or the sick.

ALL old Bart's Nurses and doctors who knew Mrs. Brown will be sorry to hear that she died in Mary Ward, on December 2nd. Mrs. Brown was one of the institutions of St. Bartholomew's, having been in the Hospital service for twenty-six years. She fulfilled her desire of "dying in harness," for although she had felt ill for some time past, had refrained from complaint lest she might be taken "off duty" in Isolation. She was a thoroughly good woman, with quite old-fashioned views on duty and work. Many Probationers of the time when Mrs. Brown used to take "half-days" in the wards will recall with delight the traditions she used to recount of Bart's "in the seventies."

It has been said that the joy of living in one's thoughts is, to a literary man, the most abiding of his pleasures, hence the delight to be derived from a well-written book, and personally we find the recreation of reading the greatest rest and pleasure in the world.

That many Nurses share our tastes is proved by the success of Hospital libraries, where they have been organised, and we are glad to learn that the library in connection with the Nursing School at St. Bartholomew's still continues to be a great success. It is managed by a committee of nine, the Matron—acting as chairman—six Sisters and two Nurses. This committee is appointed annually by ballot. There are now two hundred members, who pay 4s. a year subscription, so that it has been possible to spend £51 on new books, papers, and magazines during the current year. The library now contains 1,350 books. When read, some of the most interesting magazines are forwarded for the use of patients in the Fever Hospitals, where we have no doubt they are much appreciated.

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