

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\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



As we go to press most of the wards of our Hospitals all over the land are artistically and seasonably decorated with lovely evergreens, holly berries, and appropriate texts and mottoes. This is a charming old custom in which Nurses and patients alike take the greatest interest, the different wards in the same Institution vieing with each other as to

which shall present the most beautiful appearance on Christmas Day. Much time, thought, and money is every year expended by our Hospital workers in preparing for this great Festival, and we hear of numbers of poor sick people who remark, after the day is over, and the lights are turned down, "I have never spent a happier day!"

It is the rule in the majority of Hospitals that the Nursing staff, from the Matron downwards, should be at their posts on Christmas Day, and this is a wise regulation. "Matron" usually makes a tour of every ward, where she is warmly welcomed by staff and patients. She wishes and receives many a "Merry Christmas," admires all the pretty cards and gifts received, and tastes more plum puddings than she can possibly digest. "Sister" is up very early—busy here, there, and everywhere, arranging for the happiness and comfort of her large and ailing family, ably assisted by "Staff" and "Pro.," and although nobody would guess it from her indefatigable energy and cheery voice, even when the day is done, and she bids all "good night," she breathes a deep and long sigh of relief in her own little sanctum when the door is once closed for the night.

And then there are but a few short days between Christ's Day and the coming of the New Year—a few days filled more often with pleasurable anticipation of what the new year may bring than of vain regret for what has been left unfulfilled in the year that has passed. We all enjoy the sensation of turning over a new leaf in life, and we all hope that a new year may bring the good and bright things along, and that sorrow and disappointment

will be things of the past. We sincerely hope that this may be the experience of our kind readers, who, in the past year, have done so much to make our connection with the NURSING RECORD a memory deeply interesting, and one full of great hope for the future.

AN interesting correspondence commenced in the *Times* on Monday by someone asking why the Committee nominated to organise the Queen's Commemoration Fund—which we presume it is desirable should be National—has been composed entirely of men. The answer is very simple, and can be deduced from the conclusion of our article on the subject to be found in another column of this week's issue. It only needs four words to describe the disenfranchised classes of the nation—**Criminals, Lunatics, Paupers, and Women.** It is the very irony of Fate that the great work of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses—which was founded by the women's gift to their Queen in 1887, and which is entirely composed of working women—should now be entirely organised by men. It is a severe and bitter lesson to women—and Nurses—and we can but hope once more that such undisguised contempt for our sex will sink deep, and that it will arouse the retributive indignation which will force redress from those who have so long withheld from women equality before the Law.

MISS SOPHIA WINGFIELD has, during the past week, addressed letters to the medical and to the leading daily papers, bringing to the notice of the medical profession and the public the opinions of the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association concerning the question of placing Asylum Attendants upon the Register of Trained Nurses. Her public-spirited action is worthy of all praise.

SIR ROBERT and Lady Hunter have done much in the past to bring necessary Nursing reforms to the notice of the public, and we are glad to observe that the former is interesting himself in the formation of a Nursing Association for Haslemere, where his country house is situated. We feel sure that any scheme which has the personal interest of Sir Robert Hunter will be organised on efficient and liberal lines.

WE regret to observe that the majority of the Guardians of the City of London Union appear totally incapable of understanding the working of

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