

## 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\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 communications which we have received in consequence of our editorial upon Private Nursing Homes confirm us in our opinion that it behoves nurses to make careful enquiries before entering into engagements with so-called Nursing Co-operations. A correspondent states that in one of these co-operations she was engaged at the rate of £25 per annum, while the fees received for her services in ten weeks amounted to over £26. She also tells us that a mental nurse was sent out by this institution to nurse a monthly case, without any obstetric training, and adds other details which imply grave mismanagement on the part of those responsible for the control of the institution.

WE are requested to insert the following letter, which purports to be an answer to a letter in the *Liverpool Post* which we reprinted last week:—

"SIR,—Kindly permit me to answer a letter referring to the above, which appeared in your issue of to-day. It would have been better had your anonymous correspondent written to one of the members of the Committee before sending his letter to the Press, as then he would have learned the true state of the case.

So far from any money which the nurses earn being given away, the Committee spend upon them each year £100 or £200 more than they gain by their services. Whatever it is thought well to give towards helping other medical and nursing charities comes from the old funds of the institution—*i.e.*, from the interest of those numerous donations and legacies which were given to the Institution in its infancy, when it was the only nursing home in the town.

It has not been decided without much thought, nor without the Committee being perfectly satisfied that the arrangements for their nurses can always be amply adequate to their needs, that it is best to utilise some of this interest in helping on similar good objects in the town which are, unfortunately, not so well off.

Yours, &c.,

MARY WAINWRIGHT,  
Hon. Secretary of the Institution.

WE are decidedly of opinion that if there is an excess of income over expenditure at the Liverpool Nursing Institution—especially if the surplus arises from invested capital—that the

Committee have no right to use funds donated to one institution for the benefit of others. Miss Wainwright does not state what salaries the nurses are receiving. We have no doubt, however, that they would bear increasing, and we would again advise the Committee to invest any surplus income in hand for the benefit of the nursing staff—either as salaries or pensions—and not to spend one penny in support of outside schemes with which they have nothing to do. If individual members of the Committee of the Liverpool Nursing Institution desire to contribute to the funds of the Consumption Hospital, or to a Queen's Commemoration Fund, they would be wise to use their own money for the purpose, and not that of subscribers to the institution whose funds are entrusted to their care.

THE Boston Guardians are still greatly occupied with the nursing question. Nurses Fulker and Lambert have departed with substantial cheques, and the assistant nurse has resigned. Mr. Brown is of opinion that "its a good job to get 'em all cleared out." Mr. Peck desires to sniff out more reasons for these resignations, but Mr. Brown remarked "we have had sufficient nursing." Mr. Young asked what provision had been made for filling the place of Nurse Fulker, to which the clerk replied "the committee instructed the master to find the necessary temporary help," and though Mr. Clarke said "he had found it," Mrs. Lee immediately informed the Guardians that "the laundress had offered to render assistance in the Infirmary at night, and on Sundays, until the nursing staff was completed (hear, hear)." We regret that a lady Guardian should for a moment support such an unpractical suggestion. We presume that the laundress is engaged to wash the clothes, and that if she performs that duty efficiently during the day, she needs rest and sleep at night. We also presume that if the inmates are sick they require the attention of a trained nurse, and not that of the laundress, however good her intentions may be. The truth is that the disorganisation of the nursing in connection with the Boston Infirmary has now become a public scandal, and a subject of ridicule in the local press. The sooner the Local Government Board deals with the Guardians of this institution the better.

WE are glad to observe that in a discussion upon the nursing question at the Swansea Board of Guardians, that it was stated that the Local Government Board had "got wind" of the fact that there was no trained nurse in the Workhouse, and "the end of it would be that they

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)