

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\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



At a meeting of the St. John's House Debating Society, held on June 10th, the subject under discussion was the "Tendencies of the Age." These were said to be general indifference, lack of *esprit de corps*, lack of enthusiasm. It was urged that if the older members of the community were more enthusiastic, they would in-

spire the younger generation with the same sentiment. The tendency of the present generation to age rapidly was also mentioned. The utter indifference of nurses, at the present day, was very strongly commented on by the writer of one paper. The members present (Nurses Jordan, Miles, Groves, Thody, Toms, Candy, and Holdrup) did not entirely agree with the opinions expressed. This is the last meeting of the St. John's House Debating Society until September.

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THE Guardians of the Atherstone Rural District Council are happy in having secured for their Isolation Hospital the services of a nurse who looks after their interests, but her methods of enforcing legitimate demands are peculiar. The Isolation Hospital is a wooden structure erected on ground belonging to Mr. Tonks, a farmer, who supplies it with milk. Mr. Tonks recently attended at the meeting of the Atherstone Rural District Council and made a complaint against Nurse Blomberg. The nurse, whose courage in taking the landlord of the Hospital to task, we commend, asserted that the milk supplied by him was short measure, the alleged quantity deducted being 7 ozs. in three pints. Mr. Tonks went to see the nurse, and denied this. His account of the interview is that she still persisted in her statement, and "I called her a liar, and she gave me a slap in the face, and I gave her one back again." That the nurse was right in adhering to a statement which she believed to be correct is obvious, but we think that for the dignity of the nursing profession, if she does not care about her own, she might refrain from coming to "fisticuffs" with her dairyman, and conduct her interviews with him on more usual and constitutional lines.

NURSE HAYES has addressed the following letter to the Bradford Board of Guardians:—

"It is with deep regret, after four years and six months faithful service, without, I believe, one single complaint, that through unkindness, injustice, and mismanagement, I tender to you my resignation."

Considerable discussion took place at the meeting of the Board with regard to the letter. We think it would be well, for all concerned, if the Board desired Nurse Hayes to state plainly its meaning, and also of whose "unkindness, injustice, and mismanagement" she complains. Such statements, if made, should be quite definite, and capable of the fullest proof. In our opinion the nurse should be required to explain her letter.

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THE relations between the Master of the Wigan Workhouse and Nurse Pittman appear to be strained to the point of breaking; and we do not envy the Guardians the task of disinterring the truth in the directly conflicting statements which are before them. The Master asserts that Nurse Pittman is defiant and insubordinate, that her conduct is at times unbearable, that she sends insulting messages to himself and the matron, and is in the habit of using foul language to both inmates and officers. Nurse Pittman, on the other hand, has addressed the following letter to the Board:—

Mr. Ackerley,  
Dear Sir,

I have to call your attention to the enclosed piece of paper I have taken from the *Wigan Observer*. I think the way the Master has mentioned my name before the court in his evidence is most uncalled-for. Therefore I ask you to kindly bring the matter before the Board on Friday, as I am now seeking their protection against an assertion which, as it stands, I think amounts to a libel. I shall also seek legal protection if such an assertion is not withdrawn by the Master. I feel sure the Board will give this matter their serious consideration, and if they will only alter one or two unpleasant arrangements of the male hospital, I feel sure both the patients and myself will feel more comfortable. As the arrangements stand now, they are very unsatisfactory. I am sorry to trouble the Board, but I feel sure they will excuse me for doing so.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

E. PITTMAN."

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While unable, pending fuller investigation by the Board, to offer any opinion upon the merits of the case, we can but re-iterate our frequently expressed opinion that the position of a nurse, working as a subordinate to the master of the Workhouse, is one which must necessarily be productive of friction, and which is, in our opinion, untenable. The nursing arrangements of workhouses should beyond all question be supervised by educated gentlewomen. It would, we believe, be conducive to good discipline,

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