

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\* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



A REPLY to Lady Priestley's article in the *Nineteenth Century*, on "Nurses à la Mode," it is understood will appear in the forthcoming number of that magazine, dealing with the subject from the trained nurse's point of view. The article in question has aroused a strong feeling of indignation in nursing circles.

IN the *Illustrated Church News*, a gentleman, who states that he has been connected with Hospitals for over twenty-five years and Chaplain to nurses at a large London Hospital for more than twelve, comments upon Lady Priestley's article in the *Nineteenth Century*. He points out, in answer to Lady Priestley's assertion that "the nursing of the sick has for long been dissociated from religion, being adopted in Protestant communities simply and frankly as a means of earning a livelihood" (a statement which he says does not impress one with the idea that the maker of it is master of her subject), various instances in which this is certainly not the case. For Protestant he substitutes Anglican, and draws attention to the nursing work done by the East Grinstead, the All Saints' and the Clewer Sisters, and by Miss Sellon at Ascot. In none of these cases do the Sisters make money by their care of the sick. The writer also mentioned the "Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses," to which many hundreds of nurses belong, the object of which is to keep before nurses the religious motive as the inspiration of their work.

After a tribute to the work done by the NURSING RECORD in raising and keeping up the standard of nursing, this gentleman inquires what well-known Anglican nursing authority would have tolerated such a state of things as has recently been brought to light in Irish workhouses, where nuns were in charge of the sick. The whole paper is written from the standpoint of one who has an intimate acquaintance with nurses, who recognises their failings as well as their virtues, but who deprecates the attempt to throw mud at trained and capable nurses, who, as a whole, "need not fear com-

parison with any other body of women on the face of the earth." The writer also thinks that "if nurses chose to retaliate and publish their experiences, a good many would say that their censor should be more careful not to throw stones."

WE hear that the Matron of a London Hospital had occasion a short time since to engage a nurse from an Institution to do temporary night duty. After working for one night the nurse went to the Matron and reported that she could not stay as she could not do "menial work." Upon the Matron saying that she did not consider anyone in that hospital was required to do menial work, and asking the nurse to explain what she regarded in this light, she elicited an answer from the nurse that her "hands were blistered with cutting bread and butter!"

FRESH instances of the necessity for the re-organisation of the nursing departments of our Workhouse Infirmaries are constantly being brought before our notice. The latest is that of the Worcester Workhouse Infirmary. We hear, on good authority, that a short time since there were in this Infirmary 62 male and 61 female patients. The Nursing Staff is three in number. Our correspondent does not say whether one of the three nurses is on night duty or no, but we are forced to one of two conclusions — either that there is no night nurse, in which case 123 sick persons are left for 12 hours with none but pauper help, or that there is one night nurse to 123 patients, and one day nurse to every 61 or 62 patients; and, moreover, as the day nurses presumably have a certain amount of time off duty, that they are in turn responsible for the nursing of 123 patients also. Any comment on the quality of the nursing afforded to each patient on these lines would be superfluous. We should like to know what are the qualifications of the nurses in this Infirmary for the posts they hold, for we can scarcely think it possible that thoroughly-trained nurses would place themselves in a position in which it is quite impossible for them to do their duty to their patients.

THE annual meeting of the Penrith Women's Sick Nursing Association was recently held at the Public Offices, Mrs. Riley taking the chair. A report was read and adopted giving an account of the lectures and demonstrations which had been delivered since the last meeting, and it was decided that fifty tickets, or more, should be purchased for the lectures to be given by the county lecturer in Penrith, under the management of the local Technical Education Committee, and given away to working women.

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