

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\* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



FRIDAY'S "boat train" brought to London the last contingent of sisters and some of the medical officers of the *Daily Chronicle* expedition for the relief of the Greek wounded. Amongst the arrivals were Dr. Abbott and Dr. Fox-Symonds, and Sisters Wariner, Skerman, Coombs, Moody, Winder, Stollard, Curtis, Johnston, and Hill

—all well with the exception of Sister Hill, who returned *hors de combat* on a stretcher, after being on active duty without a day's ill-health for twelve weeks. Her friends will be pleased to hear that she is rapidly regaining health and strength.

THE Report for 1897 of the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum District is lucid and admirable, and deals in detail with every department of the Institution. The nursing department is evidently well supervised, and the managers doing all in their power to make the nursing of the sick, and the training of the nurses thoroughly efficient.

In connection with the preliminary probation of the probationer nurses the managers have found from experience that the two months' trial agreed upon when the regulations were first adopted did not afford sufficient opportunity for deciding as to the suitability of the candidates for the work, and at the request of the medical superintendent and the matron, and with the assent of the Local Government Board, they have extended the period from two months to three months.

During the year, the managers have had under consideration the question of the recreation of the nurses and other members of the staff, and with the consent of the Local Government Board, have arranged to construct a tennis court for out-door recreation, and have also made proper provision in the Nurses' Home for indoor amusements.

With regard to the examination of the probationer nurses at the close of their first year's service, the managers were pleased to receive a satisfactory report from the medical superin-

tendent. From this report, it appeared that those who had attended the full course of lectures had done exceedingly well, and that out of a total maximum of 300 marks only one probationer had obtained less than two-thirds of that number, and that three of the probationers had obtained respectively 283, 281, and 277 marks.

At the suggestion of the matron the managers have revised the nurses' time table, and the times off duty have been considerably extended. Each sister and nurse has one whole day off monthly, and half a day weekly; the sisters being granted an annual holiday of four weeks, and the nurses three weeks. We have no doubt the work is done with much greater zest and efficiency, owing to the increased facilities for rest and recreation.

WE are glad to see that the City of London Guardians have at last seen the necessity for having a training school of their own at their Infirmary at Bow. We have always held that the troubles connected with the nursing arrangements in this Infirmary would not cease until this measure was taken. It is with great satisfaction, therefore, that we announce that, at last, this necessary reform has been decided upon. We congratulate Mr. Clark upon possessing the courage of his opinions, and upon his statement to the Board that their "nursing system was altogether wrong."

It may be hoped that, now the Guardians seem to have arrived at this conclusion, matters will settle down in this Institution, and that the matron who succeeds Miss Warburton will have an easier time than her predecessor. That the nursing department of any institution can only work smoothly when adequate authority is placed in the hands of the matron we are absolutely convinced.

IT is our invariable rule to recommend that women should make every effort to learn and do their work *thoroughly*—to nurses, thoroughness is indispensable—and to try to perfect themselves in the various branches of their profession should be the aim of those who wish to rise by merit. We all know that there is great competition in teaching, and many a five pound note is thrown away by nurses in paying for a smattering of knowledge. Take massage for instance, and the movements used in the Nauheim treatment for affections of the heart. We have lately learnt that Dr. Fletcher Little, of Harley Street, has added to his most efficient curriculum of teaching massage, special instructions in the movements used in the Nauheim treatment, for trained nurses.

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