

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



WITHIN the past month we have enjoyed the hospitality of several country matrons, and find wonderful progress has been made in the management of country hospitals since our days of probation, resulting very largely from the improvement in the educational and social standing of the whole nursing staff.

COUNTRY matrons certainly have many compensations. Contrast, for instance, their pretty airy apartments, which usually include a most comfortable guest-room, opening very often into fine grounds and gardens, with the stuffy rooms provided in many Metropolitan hospitals and infirmaries, from which it is difficult to get even a peep of sky.

HOSPITAL grounds are almost a necessity for the patients and the staff, and the tennis courts and bicycle tracks save the latter many a nervous breakdown, and enable them to perform their trying duties without that terrible sense of physical weariness which generated more "tempers" than it was easy to soothe, in the past.

AND then, after all, it is delightful to be one of a community. In London, how many members of hospital committees know anything about their matrons? Here and there, perhaps, one kindly man may appreciate the woman, as well as the official, but in the country "our matron," if she is a worthy one, soon becomes a power, and finds herself the welcome guest of her fellow workers in the hospital, and looked upon as a friend by the poor, not only in the town but in the country around.

YES, the social position of the country hospital matron is now an accomplished fact, and we can imagine no position more delightful than this, in which a well educated woman has full scope for her powers of organization, influence, and sympathy, relieved in times of off duty by the appreciation of an ever widening circle of fellow workers and friends. Such a life is very full of good things, and is one to be thankful for.

THE Board of the Blackburn and East Lancashire Infirmary, in their report to the Governors of that institution at their Annual Meeting, which we notice in another column, expressed their best

thanks to the matron, Miss Poole, for the satisfactory manner in which her duties had been performed, and Mr. Rutherford, in moving the adoption of the report, remarked upon the efficiency of the nursing staff, and said that "the matron was probably the best that the institution had been blest with during the past few years," a statement which elicited applause. Those members of the nursing profession who are acquainted with Miss Poole will know that these appreciative remarks are well deserved. Miss Poole has, throughout the whole of her nursing career, won the respect and esteem of those with whom she has worked. Miss Poole is a member of the Matrons' Council, and has taken a somewhat conspicuous and determined attitude in the struggle for right and justice now going on in the Royal British Nurses' Association.

THE chairman of the Hospital Committee of the Bath Board of Guardians stated at a recent meeting that "they had advertised in the *Hospital*" for a charge nurse at £30 a year and there had not been a single application"! The moral is obvious—the Guardians should have advertised in the NURSING RECORD.

THE Dover Trained Nurses' Institution is able to publish a record of excellent work done during the past year. Four of the nurses worked at Maidstone during the recent epidemic of enteric fever and received the medal given to the nurses in recognition of their services. Two of the nurses, who had an exceptionally hard time in the huts at Loose, speak with gratitude of the kindness of the clergy at Loose and Linton, who constantly visited the huts, and were most kind and helpful in many ways.

THE nursing staff has not, we are sorry to say, been free from illness during the past year. One nurse has died from phthisis and another contracted enteric fever whilst nursing a patient, and her condition has caused great anxiety for many weeks; yet another sustained severe injuries in a fall at Dartford Infirmary and returned for treatment to her old training school, the London Hospital, where she was obliged to undergo two operations. Three probationers are now being trained for the institution at the Lincoln County Hospital, a fact which speaks for the thoroughness of the training received by the nurses of the Dover Trained Nurses' Institution. There are few hospitals which turn out nurses at the end of their three years' training better educated in technical knowledge, or better disciplined, and consequently disciplinarians, than does the Lincoln County Hospital under the able superintendence of Miss Beachcroft.

THE Dover Nurses' Institution keeps four nurses on its staff for work amongst the sick poor of the town. The local support is, unhappily, insufficient to meet the expenses of these nurses, but the Guardians of

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