

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\* \* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



WE acknowledge with much gratitude 12s. sent by nurses through Mrs. McIntyre, and 6s. 6d. from Sister Brown, India, for the Home of Rest at Brighton.

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THE suggestion made by Miss Mary Kingsley that Europeans resident in malarious districts who contract fever should, when possible, be nursed at sea is a proposal based on common sense principles which must commend itself to all. The undoubted advantage of such a system is that the patient is thereby removed into as pure air as is obtainable, and is consequently placed in the best conditions for his recovery. It is obvious that it is not conducive to convalescence for a patient impregnated with malaria to breathe the fever-laden air, which is largely responsible for the disease from which he is suffering. It is further notorious that in unhealthy climates, while the European and native populations ashore suffer greatly from malaria, the sailors on board the ships which are anchored in the harbour, sometimes for many months at a time, very rarely suffer from the disease.

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AGAIN, it is no small boon to invalids to be free from the torments caused by the ever present mosquito. Even in the day time these pests attack them, and so soon as darkness comes on, which it does about six o'clock in tropical countries, life is quite unendurable if the mosquito net is not let down. Beyond the discomfort caused by these vicious little insects the undeniable fact must be taken into consideration that they revel in feeding upon every loathsome and putrefying object; and in an African town with its system of drainage, or want of drainage, such objects abound.

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IT is an open question, how largely the mosquito is responsible for the direct introduction of the poison of malaria by means of inoculation; certain it is, that the bite of this insect is of a distinctly poisonous nature, and it is held by some authorities that the mosquito is the chief, if not the only, cause of malaria, as the malarial zone, and that of the mosquito are identical. At sea, even in a harbour, the mosquito is almost, if not altogether absent, and this boon to an invalid is incalculable.

THERE are drawbacks to most schemes, however, and this one is not exempt. The disadvantages of bilge water have been described by Miss Kingsley in sufficiently graphic terms. Then there is no doubt that the danger of chill, a very grave danger to fever patients, is increased at sea. The limited space available on board ship is also a distinct disadvantage, which those who are acquainted with the extreme restlessness which is so often associated with malaria will realize. Still, after weighing the *pros* and *cons*, hospital ships remain, we think, the most hopeful solution of the difficulty of obtaining good air for malarious patients. The second suggestion made by Miss Kingsley of having a hospital cabin on all mail steamers, though a desideratum, would not, we think, take the place of a regular hospital ship. The noises on board a passenger ship are far too many for nursing at its best to be possible under such conditions.

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WE are glad to see that the Chairman of the annual meeting of the Carlisle Infirmary, Archdeacon Prescott, in moving he adoption of the report stated that "much more stringent regulations had been made with regard to the training of nurses. Nurses would be required to go through three years' training, three months of which must be devoted to gaining experience in a fever hospital."

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ARCHDEACON PRESCOTT also commented upon the formation of the Cumberland Nursing Association, and remarked that he "heartily wished that Association God-speed, but he was sorry to see that they had got among their rules the adoption of not fully trained nurses. That seemed to him a mischievous step. He did not know what medical men thought about it, but it seemed to him that if into the country districts, where there was much more difficulty and danger than in towns, where they might get the immediate attendance of a medical man, they were to send nurses who had been trained for only six months, as he believed was to be done under the rule in question, well, he thought it was a very bad regulation and might lead to very serious consequences. He knew that they had at their back the Queen Victoria Institution for Nurses, which had got a regulation to employ nurses who had been trained for maternity nursing, and monthly nursing, for six months. He thought that was somewhat different from the rule which this Association had taken up, but surely it was a serious thing, whatever object they had in view, that they should send into the country districts those half-hatched nurses simply because they could have them for half price."

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WE are in cordial agreement with these views, and do not even hesitate to express the belief

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)