

## 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\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 quite sympathise with those private nurses who long for "fresh fields and pastures new." So many express the wish to be sent abroad; and this desire for travel is both wise and healthy. Whatever a nurse does, she deteriorates in a rut.

It is not always possible, however, to gratify this natural wish to travel with patients, and those who do so are much to be envied. We have a letter before us from a nurse who left England some three months ago, in charge of a delicate girl, for Australia, and whose experiences appear to have been very refreshing. A first-class railway journey through France and Italy, thence from Naples to Melbourne and Sydney, then a journey from Katoomba to the marvellous Blue Mountains—the wonders and beauty of which must be seen to be appreciated. It is not only the pleasure of the moment which makes such a trip delightful, but for those with eyes to see, and an understanding heart, it is the after memories which make travel the most valuable educational influence in the world.

TAKE this one nurse alone, and appreciate the value of her experience for the past twelve months. She was one of the six pioneers, who, in warm sympathy with the suffering of the oppressed, went to Greece with Mrs. Ormiston Chant, this time last year, on the now historic journey. What an unique and extraordinary experience!

OH! the cerulean seas, the rosy isles, the amethystine Albanian Mountains! And then the passionate welcome of a people, filled with mad irresponsible faith in the Christian Powers. They saw in this little band of women, with the glorious Red Cross emblazoned over their hearts, the sign visible of an undying faith. What a welcome! "It was roses—roses all the way." And modern Athens—Athens electric lit, Parisianized! Oh! shades of great Athenæ! What clamour, what conflict! A modern Crusade—Cross and Crescent—Sword and Scimitar—and here and there a cowardly hidden dagger. And then a royal progress through historic waters—Egripos—Euripus—Talanta—Oreo—Volo, and thence to fateful Larissa. After which, much experience of demoralized human nature, followed by months of helpful and salutary work well done, for which let us be grateful. Yes, it is well to go to

the fountain head for experience of life. Give us People and Places in the hey-day of youth. It is fit that the crevices of memory should be thus stored, if age is to be green and gracious.

A TESTIMONIAL is being subscribed for by the inhabitants of Bridgwater for Miss Peterkin, the district nurse, who is resigning her post, as an expression of the high appreciation of the zeal and ability with which she has discharged her duties. Bridgwater seems to have been favoured with excellent representatives of the Nursing profession, as well as to appreciate their work. It not long since a goodly sum was subscribed by the same town for a testimonial to Mrs. Okell, until recently the popular matron of the Bridgwater Infirmary.

A COURSE of six lectures on nursing, given by Miss Baigent, at Sherriff Hutton, under the auspices of the North Riding County Council, have just been concluded. The lectures have been much appreciated, the average attendance being eighty. Practical demonstrations were given at each lecture. There will be money in hand after all expenses are paid, which will probably be devoted to obtaining some necessary article for the sick-room of the parish.

WE have on various occasions pointed out the advisability and propriety of feminine advice being taken with regard to the structural arrangements of hospitals and infirmaries. A case in point recently occurred at the Poole Workhouse Infirmary when Miss F. Watson sent in her resignation as superintendent nurse at the infirmary. She did not wish to take charge of the new infirmary. The medical officer said Nurse Watson was one of the best nurses who had come to the Workhouse. Nurse Watson stated that she felt it would be impossible to stay in the new Infirmary, on account of the unsatisfactory structural arrangements. She mentioned that the bathroom was downstairs, close to the door, and without any fireplace, so that it would be impossible to bring a sick patient to it from upstairs without incurring great risk; the lavatories were in the lower part of the building, and contained no sink. By this arrangement the nurses were compelled to go out of doors both day and night, in all weathers, and walk some distance to get to the sink. The old kitchen, which was still used, was only ten feet square, and in addition to the cooking apparatus, that for heating the whole building was placed in it. It was very doubtful if this would heat it, but if it did it would be very unfortunate for the cook, for she would get cooked instead of the dinner. The nurse further complained that the larder, which was constantly used by the nurses, day and night, was out of doors.

It was ultimately unanimously resolved to ask the nurse to reconsider her decision, to tell her

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