

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



THE Queen has always shown the warmest interest in her wounded sailors and soldiers, and the latest evidence of this is the fact that Her Majesty, in spite of the innumerable claims upon her, and the exemption from active duties which she might fairly claim by reason of her age, is about to pay a second visit to Netley, for the purpose of seeing the sick and wounded who have recently returned from active service. The Queen could scarcely have done anything more likely to increase the devotion and the loyalty, which it is well known inspire in no ordinary degree those who fight her battles.

* * * We acknowledge, with gratitude, a donation for £1 is. od., from Miss Clara Lee, M.R.B.N.A., Dublin, for Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest for Nurses at Brighton.

* * * SEVERAL more questions of importance to nurses have been suggested for the agenda paper of the Nursing Conference in June, and the sub-committee will add to those already accepted, the question, "Do charitable institutions undersell the private nurse?" This is a very important economic question, and should arouse a most interesting discussion. As the nursing profession becomes more and more crowded, as is inevitable in the future, it becomes a very serious question indeed to nurses engaged in private nursing, whether or no it is justifiable that institutions supported by charity shall be permitted to compete, quite unfairly—because their competition is not founded on a solid financial basis—with trained and certificated nurses in private practice. We shall make some further remarks on the matter in answer to the lady whom we congratulate upon having the courage, to publicly tackle this thorny subject.

* * * We hope to insert the whole programme for the Nursing Conference next week; the number of tickets applied for is very gratifying.

* * * MISS BELL, who, for fourteen years has been the lady superintendent of the Swansea and South

Wales Nursing Institute, and who is about to sever her connection with the institution was recently presented with a cheque for £76. In the absence of Lady Dillwyn Llewelyn, the presentation was made by Miss Aubrey, the vice-chairman, who expressed the deep regret of the committee and nursing staff at the severance of a connection which had existed so long. Miss Bell, in reply, expressed her appreciation of the gift, as well as of the kindly feeling of which it was evidence.

* * * Six of the nurses of the Mitcham Infirmary have sent in their resignations to the guardians. The circumstance giving rise to these resignations is, it is asserted, that a male patient had so grossly insulted one of the nurses, that she refused to go into the ward again unless the patient were removed. Another nurse refused to take up the duty, and in consequence both nurses were censured by the Committee. As a protest against this censure, four other nurses sent in their resignations. In our opinion the nurse did not act advisedly in adopting the above line of action. Her right course was undoubtedly to report the matter, and leave it in the hands of the proper authorities, but, to refuse to go on duty, and so make the other patients, and even the patient of whom she complained, suffer in consequence, was in our opinion indefensible.

* * * HEROISM is a somewhat obsolete virtue in these material days, and that may be the reason why it still flourishes in Spain. No one can read the official reports of the great sea battle of Manila without admiration for the fine courage of the Spanish navy, when he reads that "next the *Don Antonio de Ulloa* took fire. She fought heroically. She sank firing, with flying colours, taking down all the survivors with her." One can but regret that these brave sailors were killed in such a cause. But it was a glorious death, and deserves the admiration of the world at large.

* * * WHEN the Americans landed in Cavite a long procession of priests and sisters of mercy met the boat from the *Petrel* and begged them not to injure the wounded in the hospital, and we are glad to hear that there are 250 sick and wounded men of the Spanish garrison now in the hospital within the American lines at Cavite.

* * * It was the awful carnage in the terrible battle of Solferino in 1859, in which 300,000 men were engaged, that first drew attention to the necessity for better care for the victims of war. Before the Red Cross Society was founded the wounded were often abandoned on the field and deprived of every necessary, owing to their doctors having fallen

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