

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 Regent of Spain has personally distributed over £2,700 for the benefit of the sick and wounded in the recent war. This sum was realized by the London fund promoted by the Countess de Casa Valencia (wife of the ex-Spanish Ambassador to the Court of St. James). The Queen has also distributed nursing comforts, such as lint, bandages and socks, derived from the same source. The Countess appeals for further funds, which are urgently needed, and may be sent to her at Malvernhurst, Meads, Eastbourne, or to Lady Selina Hervey, 6, Egerton Place, S.W., to the National Bank, Belgravia branch, or to Messrs. Zulueta and Co., 41, Moorgate Street, E.C.

THE nursing of the American sick and wounded seems to be in competent hands, but we hear but little of the nursing of the Spaniards who have suffered, yet there must be many who need attention.

At an inquest recently held on a patient, whose death took place in the Wandsworth and Clapham Infirmary, one of the guardians asked a nurse, who was present as a witness, how many patients she had under her charge, and the answer given was 110, with assistance from five probationers. The hours of duty were from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., with one-and-a-half hours for meals, breakfast being taken before they commenced their duties. This means 10½ hours on duty, and if, out of this, time off duty is occasionally allowed, the hours of work will compare favourably with those in many hospitals, but the responsibility for the nursing of 110 sick persons, with the help only of probationers, and very few of them, is a burden which should not be laid upon any nurse, for it is one which no one could adequately fulfil.

THE Committee of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, encourage their nurses to indulge in cycling when off duty, and have built a shed for the accommodation of about 40 cycles. It is even rumoured that some of the Committee will provide machines for the permanent use of the institution.

WE are glad to see that the Cheltenham Guardians have been comparing the strength of the nursing staff at the Workhouse Infirmary with that of the General Hospital in the same town. Mr. Carrington pointed out that while the daily average number of patients in the infirmaries was 100, and the staff consisted of one superintendent nurse and three assistant nurses, the General Hospital, with on the average during 1897, of 53 patients, had a matron, five ward nurses, seven assistant nurses, and seven probationers. It might perhaps be suggested that the hospital was a little lavish in its arrangements, but the truth was simply that it aimed at efficiency. It was true that many of the Hospital cases were surgical; on the other hand, at the Workhouse there were cases of dementia, etc., which required frequent attention, as well as midwifery cases. Many of the Workhouse cases were saddest of all—those of the aged who came in to die; and that consideration for the poor, in which the Guardians were not wanting when deserving cases of relief were mentioned, could not be better shown than in making the nursing arrangements at the Workhouse all that they ought to be. It was decided unanimously to appoint another Assistant Nurse at the Workhouse Infirmary.

MUCH interest attaches to the Trinity Hospital, Leicester, which is now, owing to alterations made by the Corporation, undergoing some changes. The hospital, with an oratory was founded in 1330 by the Duke of Lancaster, and enlarged by his son, benefiting about 100 alms-people, who were attended by some ten nurses; the oratory having been transformed into a collegiate body. Eventually the college was disbanded, but the hospital continued, and in 1770 was renovated at the expense of the Duchy of Lancaster. It is one of the most ancient places in the borough, the chapel of the hospital being the same as was used in the days of John o' Gaunt. It would be interesting to know how the nursing of the Hospital is at present arranged, and if it has progressed upon modern lines.

MUCH sympathy has been felt with the sufferers from the Faversham explosion. They are being nursed in the Faversham hospital, and at present there is no change in the condition of the majority, but we regret to learn that the man Martin has succumbed to his injuries.

MISS FISHER, Superintendent Nurse of the Newton Abbot Infirmary, recently informed the Visiting Committee, through the Master, that Nurse Lake, whilst on night duty, neglected to carry out her written instructions with regard to a female patient named Wotton. The Medical

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