

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* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



MISS MILLINGTON and Miss Hurlston will be glad to welcome members of the Registered Nurses' Society to a garden party at Mitcham Hall, Surrey, on Saturday, July 16th, from 4 to 7. No doubt many of those who were so hospitably entertained by these ladies last year will avail themselves of their kind invitation for the 16th instant.

WALKER : WILKINSON.—On the 1st July, at St. Columba's, Pont Street, Chelsea, by the Rev. S. Macleod, George Walker, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Hill Road, Wimbledon, eldest surviving son of George Walker, Woodside, Wimbledon, to Mary Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the late Lt.-Col. John Wilkinson (late the 80th Reg., and for many years Commanding Officer of the London Division of the Corps of Commissionaires), 12, Pembroke Villas, Southfields, S.W. No cards. At home July 22nd and 23rd.

ON Friday, July 1st, the annual inspection of the St. Pancras Infirmary at Highgate took place. At the invitation of the Infirmary Committee about 500 ratepayers and their friends visited the wards and buildings in the infirmary. The weather was most propitious, and the visitors expressed approval of the arrangements made for the care of the sick by the St. Pancras Guardians. The training given to nurses in this school is very thorough and practical, and they are awarded a certificate after a course of three years instruction and examination.

THE report of Dr. John Curnow, M.D., F.R.C.S., upon the examination which he has recently made of the qualifications of the nurses of the Hackney Union, is very satisfactory. There were twenty-one candidates, who were subjected both to a written and to a *viva-voce* examination. Six of the nurses gained a first-class certificate, three being specially commended, eight were placed in the second division, and seven in the third class. Many of those who failed to express themselves well in writing proved that they knew their practical work in their *viva-voce* examinations. Dr. Curnow also, in his official report to the guardians, commented upon the satisfactory result produced by the careful tuition of the Medical Superintendent.

WE rescue the following literary gems from the Student's Journal, termed *The St. George's Hospital Gazette* :—

"Our attention has been called to a paper—*The Nursing Record*, which apparently is annoyed by the reference in our last issue to certain recent changes in nursing matters at St. George's. This paper from time to time tries to throw mud at us, why, we neither know nor care; we may however say that if the *Nursing Record* is to take any notice of us at all, it would be as well if the editor were to make sure of his (*sic.*) facts before attacking us. In the number to which we refer the editor frankly allows that she (*sic.*) is not competent to choose the house-surgeons for St. George's. For this much thanks: but such an acknowledgment is hardly an argument that qualified men who have been in close touch with ward-work for periods varying from five to eight years are not to know what are the requirements of good nursing. (!)

"The invasion of foreign nurses still continues. We have now two temporary sisters, a temporary house-keeper, and at least one temporary staff-nurse from outside. This last item is a serious one, and becomes more so if it be true, as we are told it is, that there is an advertisement out for staff-nurses for St. George's. There can be no question that there are nurses at St. George's, who are fitted to be staff-nurses, and this invasion from outside, if it is to be permanent, can only mean that the present set of nurses is not wanted, and the sooner they see this for themselves the better for their future. (!) We find however that certain of the governors have taken our side (*sic.*) strongly, and that at present everything has quieted down on the understanding that none of these changes are to be of a permanent character. If this pledge of the temporary nature of these appointments is not fulfilled, we are sure that events will move fairly rapidly, and that it will not be long before nurses at St. George's are able to feel again that they will be rewarded if their work is intelligently and satisfactorily performed.

"At present there is the greatest possible friction in the nursing arrangements, brought on entirely by the great rapidity with which innovation has followed innovation. We would be the last to say that there were no improvements possible with regard to our nursing; but let those improvements come gradually; let there be some tact in carrying them out, and let them be concluded without gross injustice to nurses brought here under the old conditions."

The youthful Editor seems blissfully unconscious of the fact that the nursing at St. George's Hospital has never yet been brought up to a modern standard, and that radical reforms will be necessary, in order to render the Department really efficient. His innocence of the requirements of good nursing is excellently illustrated by his objection to "foreign nurses." We only venture to point out to him that it is a clinical, as well as a proverbial fact, that the attempt of the blind to lead the blind is usually disastrous.

The scarcely veiled threats to the "governors," if they do not "take our side," whatever that may mean, appears to us to evince a spirit of insubordination, which may give trouble in the future, if it be not promptly dealt with.

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