

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 think that the members of the Nursing Staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and those old pupils who assembled on Friday evening, by the kind invitation of the Matron, to listen to an address from Mrs. Wright Sewell, will be long before they forget it; the whole tone and diction of the address was exquisite.

Yet it was not the remarkable eloquence, the actual words spoken, which caused the reciprocal vibration on the heart's cords of her listeners, but the instinctive sympathy which inspired the words. Mrs. Sewall, queenly and sweet as she looked, was not so forcibly existent as the spiritual force by which she was aflame—the little humanised crust of earth crumbled before the effluence of this divine gift, and *soul touched soul*. No words of ours could render the sacredness of hers—therefore let them remain unwritten.

THE conduct of Westminster Hospital is essentially secretive, and it remains one of the few public institutions in our experience which leaves its official correspondence unanswered, which is both discourteous and unjustifiable, as we presume the Committee pays some person to perform such duties.

BUT in spite of this system of secrecy, the little storm in a tea cup over the appointment of the new Matron, has leaked out, and under the existing organization of what appears to us a dual control of the nursing department by the Hospital Committee, and the Committee of the Westminster Training School and Home for Nurses, future storms are not likely to limit themselves to a teacup.

THIS dual control is now an obsolete arrangement, which might have answered well enough in the past; but the employment of probationers trained at the Westminster Hospital, after two years service, as private nurses by the Institute, is most detrimental to the efficient training of the

probationers, and in consequence to the nursing of the sick both in the hospital and in private houses.

Good organization and satisfactory progress can only be obtained in one way, and that is for the Committee of the Westminster Hospital to assume the entire control of their own Nursing School, select and train their Probationers for a definite period of three years, and when certificated recognise that they are free to practice as they choose. As for permitting an outside organization the power of selection or even of recommendation in the appointment of the Matron, it places the Committee of the Westminster Hospital, in an undignified and absolutely futile position. We hope the Committee will have the courage to assume its rightful authority.

THERE have been "breezes" at the New Hospital for Women since the departure of Miss Cartwright, and Miss Edwards the lady who succeeded her as Matron has already resigned and been followed by Miss McNeil. The lady medicos must inaugurate a more liberal government. Economy is good, but as scientific treatment and nursing extends, so do the cost of these departments, and the Committee of the "New" must realise this fact. Good nursing can only be efficiently performed by an ample supply of trained nurses; and trained nurses are expensive luxuries.

THE Local Government Board have forwarded a letter to the Chelsea Guardians, approving of the proposal to pay Nurse Corfield £30 gratuity. It will be remembered that the unfortunate recipient contracted ophthalmia whilst in the service of the Chelsea Infirmary, and lost an eye. She was engaged to be married, and her brother originally sent a letter asking for heavy compensation, which was refused. £30 is not adequate compensation in our opinion, for the loss of an eye. As this is the second case which has occurred at the Chelsea Infirmary, in which a nurse has contracted ophthalmia and lost an eye in consequence, we hope the Infirmary Board have satisfied themselves that these poor nurses were in a fit state of health, to have been deputed to duty in a ward where they might become infected. We should imagine that the Chelsea ratepayers will hardly appreciate the payment of compensation in such lump sums, especially if, by care and forethought, nurses could have been saved from such a life-long affliction.

NURSE JOHNSON, who has been the Parish Church sick nurse at Rochdale, for over six years, and who has proved a most valuable auxiliary to the local work of the clergy during that period, is

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