

A Journalistic Compliment.

"Records that defy the tooth of Time."—YOUNG.

WE are pleased with the "Chelsea Mail." It devoted the first half-column of its editorial articles last week to a consideration of our recent criticism of the nursing arrangements at the Chelsea Infirmary, and it displayed an acquaintance with the past utterances of the NURSING RECORD, which is highly to be commended. For example, it quoted, off-hand, various remarks published in our issue of October 5th, 1895, and at other remote dates. We should have felt more flattered by the close study which the "Chelsea Mail," like others of our contemporaries, devotes to our columns, if the quotations in question had been, in any way, relevant to the matter. Still, we congratulate the "Chelsea Mail" on possessing an Editor who evinces such wise discrimination and good taste as to keep the whole file of the NURSING RECORD always in front of him, for reference and instruction.

A Matron's Qualifications.

THERE is genuine regret in the nursing world that the Community of All Saints, and the Committee of University College Hospital are ceasing to work together, and that the nursing of this institution will therefore pass into other hands. Under the Sisters the standard of devotion to the sick has been very high, and in these days, when nursing is not invariably regarded with approval, the loss of those who always place the well-being of their patients first is a very real deprivation to the nursing world.

It is an opportune moment for considering the qualifications for a Matron. In the first place, she must be a graduate of a training school holding a high position in public estimation, and must possess its certificate. Secondly, she must be a woman of refinement, education, and tact; and she must possess the other qualifications which will enable her to co-operate cordially with the medical staff of the institution. Thirdly, should she have held a similar position, her past record should have been beyond all reproach, and she should also have a reputation for justice, sympathy, and powers of organization. In short, she should be a gentlewoman of proved ability, who by her personality and her past work is able to command the respect and affection of those who will work under her, and to hold an even balance between the many interests which she will be called upon to control. Women possessing such qualifications are rare. We hope, however, that the Committee of University College Hospital may be able to find and choose such a Matron for their important Institution.

Edinburgh Honours its Nurses.

THE "At Home" which during the past six or seven years the Town Council of Edinburgh have annually given in honour of the nurses engaged in the City Hospital and other institutions of a like character under the management of the Corporation, took place last week in the Music Hall and Assembly Rooms, George Street. Since these annual gatherings were instituted they have gradually grown in dimensions and importance. Last year a move was made from the Freemasons' Hall to the Assembly Rooms, but even the Assembly Rooms proved too small for the entertainment of the nature the Corporation had in view, and on the present occasion both the Music Hall and the Assembly Rooms were called into use. The company numbered about 550, and was thus the largest which has ever been brought together at an affair of the kind in the city. In addition to the nursing staff of the City Hospital—for whom the "At Home" was primarily instituted—representatives were present from over twenty hospitals or nursing institutions in the city and neighbourhood, including the Royal Infirmary, the Convalescent House, Corstorphine; the Royal Sick Children's Hospital, Leith General Hospital, the Fever Hospital, Slateford; Saughton Hall, Gorgie; the Royal Maternity Hospital, Chalmers' Hospital, the Deaconesses' Hospital, the Longmore Hospital, the Edinburgh Institution for Training Sick Nurses, Craighleith Poorhouse Hospital, the Victoria Hospital, Craighleith; Pilton Fever Hospital, Portobello Fever Hospital, the Royal Scottish Nursing Institution, Craighouse, and West House, Morningside; Rosewell Asylum, Craiglockhart Poorhouse Hospital, Campie House, Musselburgh, the Children's Convalescent Home, and Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institution for Nurses. The nurses, it should be mentioned, turned out, not in evening dress, but in the working costumes of the institutions to which they were attached, and this necessarily gave to the gathering a somewhat unique appearance. The guests, on their arrival, were received by Bailie Kinloch Anderson, acting chief magistrate of the city, in the absence of the Lord Provost, by Bailie Pollard, convener of the Public Health Committee, and by other members of the Corporation. When all the company had assembled, Bailie Kinloch Anderson addressed a few words to them. He first expressed the regret which the Lord Provost felt—regret which all must share—at his absence on holiday in the south. Then he extended a cordial welcome to the gathering on behalf of the Corporation, and traced the growth of these gatherings from the modest dimensions they originally assumed in the Council Chamber, to the large and brilliant company he now saw

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