

## 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\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 desire specially to draw the attention of our readers to our Editorial remarks in this issue, as the subject with which they deal is one of supreme importance to them. It was to obtain legal registration for nurses that the British Nurses Association was founded eleven years ago, and it was to demonstrate the principle that a voluntary Register was compiled. Since the great betrayal of the Members by the Hon. Officers on this matter, in 1896, the prestige of the Association has steadily declined, and it has probably received its coup-de-grace in the fact which we now record, that for the future the Register will not be issued.

We have watched the careful and progressive organization of the Scottish Branch of the Queen's Jubilee Institute with much pleasure, and in our review of the tenth annual report in last week's issue, observed that if three months' practical experience in fever nursing was added to the curriculum, a three years' course of very complete training would have been attained for "Queen's Nurses" in Scotland.

Miss Wade, the Superintendent of the Scottish Branch, has kindly forwarded to us a copy of the regulations, and informs us that "for the last four or five years the Scottish Council have given three months' fever training" and we find from regulation 11 that "when the Hospital in which the Probationer is trained does not take enteric fever, or diphtheria patients, the Council offer a course of three months' training in a Fever Hospital, but do not make it compulsory. When this training is taken, three months are added to the engagement of the Nurse, and the salary on completion of the training will be £35."

This is good; and from the full report we are glad to find that "During the year three Nurses received three months' training in the Edinburgh City Hospital, and three Nurses (fever) received three months' training in the Glasgow Maternity Hospital."

It is becoming more and more a problem which requires solution by those responsible for Nurse Training how an efficient education is to be given in hospitals which do not admit cases of enteric fever and diphtheria. No nurse can be considered trained in medical work who has not had experience in the nursing of these diseases, in which good or bad nursing makes the difference of life or death to the patient, to say nothing of the necessity for training in the nursing of infectious fevers. How this training is to be given it is difficult to say unless wards especially set apart for the reception of patients suffering from these diseases are maintained, through which probationers can pass in the course of their training.

The Nursing Question was debated with some warmth at the last meeting of the Camberwell Guardians, and it transpired that one Nurse has left because she was not permitted to wear jewellery, and a second because the doctor had dared to enter the ward wearing noiseless slippers at four in the morning!

We have expressed our opinion on the Begum Nurse in another column, but we should very much like to know what make of shoe a Night-Nurse would advocate if not a noiseless one? An Editorial might be written on Nursing Shoes, such an important item are they, in the necessary quietude for the sick, and in every well-managed hospital with which we have an acquaintance the question of shoes has received consideration, and the probationers are requested to provide themselves with foot gear of a noiseless make, especially for night duty.

We know the shoe variety—The flat-footed Pro, with the clumping buttoned boot; the weak ankle Pro, with the thumping stout-soled shoe; the smart Pro, with the tip-tapping high-heeled shoe; the unsmart Pro, with the slithering untidy slipper; and the sensible sympathetic Pro, with the well-fitting noiseless shoe, and we feel sure that the sick of all classes will give the palm to the shoe of the last mentioned variety.

The Hackney Guardians, at their meeting last week formed a sub-committee to inquire into certain allegations with reference to the food supplied to the medical staff, nurses, and patients in the workhouse infirmary.

It was stated that on one occasion the sausages served up for the nurses were bad, while the roast beef provided for a recent Sunday's dinner was tainted. From doctors, nurses, and patients complaints had been received with regard to the food.

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