

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* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



At the Annual "Day of Rest" for the Nurses of the Metropolitan Hospitals and Nursing Institutions, held at Hertingfordbury, Hertford, a considerable number of nurses were present. The day commenced with an administration of the Holy Communion in the Parish Church at eleven. The Rector, Canon Burnside, officiated, assisted by the Rev. A. G. Locke, Chaplain of St. George's Hospital, and the Rev. T. H. Russell, Chaplain of the North-Western Hospital. The Bishop of Southwark gave an address upon the responsibility of using such seasons of rest and retirement for the recreation of body, mind, and soul. A second service followed at 3.30, when the Bishop dwelt upon the operations of the Holy Ghost, with special reference to the nurse's vocation as a ministry of healing. The nurses were entertained at dinner and tea. The intervals between the services were mainly spent in rambles in the country. It was generally felt that the day had not failed in its principal intention of affording the nurses the opportunity of physical rest, combined with spiritual edification.

JUSTIFICATION for Miss Entwisle's resignation of her membership of the Royal British Nurses' Association is amply furnished in this month's issue of the official organ of the Association. Either the lay Editor of what purports to be the *Nurses' Journal* fails to realise the significance of the great International Congress of Women, with its organized subsections for Women in Medicine and Trained Nursing, at which Papers are to be presented by some of the most eminent women in both professions—which, of course, is possible in an unprofessional editor of a professional journal—or she is influenced by the personal motives of those in authority over her, in boycotting a subject which it is her duty to her professional readers, to bring to their notice. In either case, the objection to a lay woman and paid official being the Editor of the *Nurses' Journal* is valid. It makes that publication useless for professional progress and dangerous to the

personal rights and liberties of the members of the association whose organ it is supposed to be. The personal malice of the male Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association in attempting to boycott the International Congress of Women is as contemptible as it is foolish, and only demonstrates the terror of small-minded men at the inevitable progress of nursing organization.

OUR readers will be interested to hear something of an association under the title of the "Brothers of Pity," which has been formed recently by some fishermen in one of our seaside towns on the Devonshire coast. In the current number of the *Cowley Evangelist* some interesting particulars are given from one of the Brothers of the work.

THE objects of the association of the "Brothers of Pity" are to render help to the sick and to aid in the reverent care of the dead. The idea, which was suggested by a similar organisation in Rome, was brought before the notice of the curate-in-charge by the matron of the hospital. He told his men's guild about the project, and it was at once unanimously accepted. The first night twenty-four fishermen enrolled themselves as members. The organisation is very simple. One of their number is called the Sergeant, and at his call the others come when wanted to aid in the carrying out of any works of mercy that are needed. They try to be as unobtrusive as possible, and no one but themselves knows who they all are. They recruit their ranks simply by a quiet invitation to any likely man to join them. The next thing that the new member may hear of is that some accident or death has happened, and he is summoned to give his services, it may be in the middle of the night. "Then," in the words of Brother —, "after the Brother has accomplished his task, he goes quietly home again, and says nothing more about it." So, in a simple, loving way, the sick are watched and helped, or the dead bodies of Christ's poor are reverently carried to the mortuary and to the grave.

THE following is a short extract from another letter of the same Brother:—"Now about the 'Brothers of Pity,' Brother — is the sergeant, and, when at midnight he calls, we are supposed to come and do what is to be done; perhaps remove a corpse, or look after someone who is delirious, or as in one case when we were going three or four every night for a week to a foreigner, who was very threatening, and had to be looked after. Or again, in one case, there was a young man with no friends to bury him, and so they fell back on the Brothers of Pity.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)