

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* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Cross Hospitals, "ont rivalisé de zèle pour soulager les souffrances des malades et des blessés."

SUBSCRIBERS to the Greek Nursing Fund and the *Daily Chronicle* National Fund for the Greek wounded, will learn with pleasure that in the Report just issued of the operations of the Greek Red Cross Society during the Græco-Turkish War, it is recorded that the English Sisters, who worked with the Greek ladies in the Red

WE this week present our readers with a portrait of Miss Jane Melita Jones, the Matron of the Nelson Hospital, New Zealand, who has expressed deep interest in the work of the Matrons' Council, and who was elected a member by the Society at its last meeting. The Matrons' Council hopes in time, to have members who are in sympathy with its aims in many countries, and the encouragement it has of late received from the leaders of nursing reform abroad, who are earnestly working for the same great end, is dearly prized by the members at home, where the bitter controversy in the nursing world and opposition upon the part of employers to professional co-operation of Matrons and nurses on a self-respecting basis, make their work one of incessant self-sacrifice for the common good.

It will hardly be controverted that it requires some courage in these days of parti-an press pillory for Hospital Matrons to act with courage according to their convictions—in the all-important question at issue—the right of British Nurses to liberty of conscience and of speech. But when we remember that it was for this great principle, that the men and women of our blood have lived lives of martyrdom and died horrible deaths in ages past, we also must realise that personal suffering is a privilege in so great a cause as that of personal freedom in matters of conscience. We have claimed it; we must cling to it—or sink.

THE opening of the new Nurses' Home and Cancer Ward at the New Hospital for Women, Euston Road, by the Bishop of London, has been postponed, owing to the decision of the Committee to close the hospital for some weeks. This has been necessitated, in the first place, by the

occurrence of several cases of scarlet fever in the wards, and secondly by the need of considerable sanitary alterations. The patients have, therefore, been discharged as quickly as their condition admitted, and the sanitary arrangements will be thoroughly over-hauled before the building is re-opened.

THE Coroner's inquest into the circumstances of the death of Nurse Bell, whose body was found in the Thames, has resulted in a verdict of suicide while temporarily insane. A nurse, a friend of the dead woman, gave evidence that on one occasion the deceased nurse had spoken to her of suicide. She said she had a "great, intense wish for rest." It would appear from the evidence that Nurse Bell had, earlier in the year, had influenza, and suffered from the after effects, and it is probable that her mental balance was upset.

THE dearth of nurses in the smaller Workhouse Infirmary is arousing the Guardians all over the country, and not before time. We heartily second Miss Julian's suggestion for a Departmental Infirmary by the Local Government Board—or, better still, a Parliamentary Inquiry into the whole nursing question. It will have to come sooner or later. Listen to "Truth" on matters at Plymouth:—

"A shocking state of things prevails among the sick poor in the Plymouth Workhouse owing to the disgraceful overcrowding of the wards. At a meeting of the Guardians last week one member described "a miserable little room" in which six imbeciles are accommodated. The room has no proper window, so that it is wretchedly dark; it is so damp that the patients have not a dry place on which they can stand, or put their clothes when they go to bed; and it is so exposed to the weather that when he visited the "little hole" the rain was coming in under the door. Another member, a medical man, declared that he would not keep a cow in the isolation ward, and that in his opinion any one who would put a man there had not the feelings of a human being. It seems that for a couple of years past or longer the Guardians have been slumbering over a proposal for the erection of a new infirmary. In view of the disclosures made last week, it is to be hoped the people of Plymouth will speedily wake them up and insist upon the abolition of the present scandalous condition of affairs."

THE following advertisement has recently appeared in a contemporary. It is of interest to nurses at the present time when the registration of Asylum Attendants by the Royal British Nurses' Association is being advocated by certain medical members of the Association:—

—District Lunatic Asylum. Wanted, three Deputy Nurses; two of the latter must have respectively a knowledge of House and Parlour work, and Laundry work. Salary commencing £10, rising by £1 annually to £25, with rations, furnished apartments, uniform, etc.; age 20 to 35 years. Apply, in first instance, to Resident Medical Superintendent, sending copies only of testimonials.

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