

received from the Association. Rev. J. M. Rees: You subscribe to the Bath Hospitals, and why not to this Association? The Board then proceeded to consider the replies to be given to the four questions. Mr. Baldwyn Fleming said they might reply to the first that they had now no difficulty as their nurses were properly trained, and their life in the house was made as pleasant as possible for them. Rev. H. B. Bardwell: Better pay and greater comforts. We shall never get the same class of nurse as in the hospitals because of the drudgery in Workhouse Infirmaries. Mr. Baldwyn Fleming said they wanted the same nurses for patients in Workhouses as they had in hospitals. They wanted the very best nurses that they could get, and anything that would encourage the idea that an inferior class of nurses was required for workhouse work should be repudiated once and for all.

Mr. Bardwell touched upon the crux of the whole situation when he mentioned the word drudgery. Nurses would not do drudgery. Drudgery was not nursing. Drudgery was servants' work, and ought to be done in the sick ward independent of the nursing. If they saved the nurses from drudgery work, provided them with the pleasant amenities of life which they were able to obtain in an hospital, then they would have no difficulty in getting nurses. The difficulty was that a Workhouse Infirmary was not a pleasant place, and until it was made so the difficulty would continue. By a pleasant place he meant that a nurse would know exactly what she had to do, in what time to do it, a place where she could have her meals pleasantly, where the menial work was done, and where she could do her duty to the sick patients under pleasant and proper conditions. When those needs were provided in the Workhouses he did not think they would find any difficulty in obtaining good nurses. With regard to the Association, he thought its existence would be necessary in the future. The supply of trained nurses for workhouse work was in the future likely to be considerably increased. In the last few years many of the large workhouses were separating their hospitals from the administration of the workhouse proper, and were having their own resident medical officers, and they would no doubt be able to train their own nurses.

It is only by calling into existence some influential Central Board to deal with the nursing in Poor Law institutions exclusively, that any real hope of evolving a satisfactory system can be hoped for. The sooner a move is made the better.

## 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.



THE Queen has been pleased to send a beautiful selection of engravings and gravures for the drawing-room sale to be held to-day, Nov. 18th, in Edinburgh in aid of the funds of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, Scottish Branch. Her Royal Highness Princess Henry of Battenberg has sent books and cards painted by herself.

WE have received a dainty little booklet in a white cover with gold lettering, entitled "Louise Darche: A Reformer in Nursing and in the Civil Service," and we hear that all the members of the Matrons' Council have been similarly favoured. This memorial of Miss Darche is by the sympathetic pen of Miss Livinia L. Dock, and is worthy of study and consideration by all nurses, more especially by those who appreciate the struggles which are inseparable from the work of earnest pioneers in any branch of reform. It is sad that Miss Darche's life should have been sacrificed as a result of the overstrain on a conscientious and noble nature. The nursing profession needs such women, never more than at the present time. But it is those who lead the assault who are most sorely wounded in the battle, and, over the lives laid down, the main body passes on to victory. Let us at least keep green in our memories a grateful recollection of our indebtedness to the heroines of the nursing profession. They win their laurels, not in the excitement of battle, or amid the tumult of applause. Theirs is the highest form of courage. Convinced of the rectitude of their beliefs, and of the necessity for proclaiming them, they dare to take an unpopular line, to follow the voice which speaks above popular clamour, the still small voice of conscience, and, uninfluenced by, though may be keenly feeling, the coldness, unkindness, and calumny usually meted out to them—often by those who are under the deepest obligations to them—they pursue the even tenor of their way, making straight for the desired end. When we at length give a tardy recognition to their worth; it frequently happens that the heart which would have glowed at our words of sympathy is stilled, and the grass grows green over the grave of an unrecognized martyr.

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