

### 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\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 are pleased to announce that Miss Hibbard, the Superintendent of Nurses on the American hospital ship *Maine*, and Miss Virginia Ludekens, Miss Jennie A. Manly, Miss Margaret MacPherson, and Miss MacVean, have accepted the invitation of the Chairman and Members of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland to an At Home at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., on Thursday, December 7th, at 4.30 p.m. Miss Hibbard has kindly consented to speak on "The Evolution of the Army Nurse in the United States of America." We learn that the greatest pleasure has been expressed by members of the Matrons' Council at this opportunity of meeting their American colleagues.

AT the examination of nurses held last week at the Infirmary and Children's Hospital, Kidderminster, Nurse Fowler headed the list of third year nurses, winning the President's prize of books. In the probationer's examination Nurse Cocks, and Nurse Margaret Whytlaw were bracketted first. We are glad to learn that the lecturers to the nurses do not conduct the examination, and that the examiners expressed themselves as very pleased both with the papers of the nurses and with the *viva voce* examination.

AT a recent meeting of the Newark Guardians the question of the administration of the infirmary was considered and the steps to be taken to remedy defects in such administration as might be considered necessary. The principal point under consideration was the negligence owing to which 140 sheets had been lost. The Matron, who is not a trained nurse, said she had noticed the scarcity of sheets and had spoken of it in the wash-house. She had no cause to suspect dishonesty. She owned to a neglect of duty which she regretted very much; indeed, she felt her position extremely. After referring to the books it was found that 140 sheets were missing. None were found deficient till the last three years, and no stock had been taken for 14 years. The

auditor has examined the stock books and stamped them every half-year. After other evidence had been given it was unanimously agreed that the Master and Matron be asked to resign.

SUGGESTIONS as to the better administration of the Infirmary were then discussed. Mr. T. Hutchinson put his finger on the right spot when he said that the management of the vagrant wards should be entirely separated from the infirmary. He had always looked on a Matron as a white elephant in the infirmary over which he thought the nurse should have full power.

THERE is no doubt that innumerable difficulties occur in workhouse infirmaries which are under the control of an untrained Matron. Even if the actual nursing is in the hands of a Superintendent of Nursing there are many ways in which the Matron can make her position almost untenable. Friction will never be abolished until the Infirmaries are separated from the workhouses, and a trained nurse placed in control of both the nursing and the domestic management of the former.

WITH regard to the half-yearly stamping of books by the auditor for 14 years, although no stock had been taken, we think that this gentleman as well as the Matron should "feel the position acutely," and that the Guardians would do well to employ another auditor.

ONCE again the vexed question of the attendance of Roman Catholic nurses at Mass caused a warm discussion at a meeting of the Belfast Board of Guardians. A complaint had been made by a priest to the Committee that the Roman Catholic nurses were not allowed to attend Mass. We must point out that the Committee, to be just, could not allow these nurses to attend High Mass every Sunday, or the complaint of the Protestant nurses that they had to do all the work and cleaning up on Sunday while the Roman Catholics were at Church would be a legitimate one. The Roman Catholic fathers should arrange for at least one early Mass on Sundays, and days of obligation, at an hour before the nurses come on duty. By attending this they would fulfil their religious obligations, and on alternate Sundays they should have a morning pass when they would be able to attend High Mass also. We are in much sympathy with one gentleman, Mr. Walker, who said that "if the nurses in the house were Christians instead of Protestants and Catholics, it would be a great deal more creditable to the house."

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