

**Nursing Echoes.**

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THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to accede to the request of the Committee of the Salford Nurses' Home, which has been erected in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, that the Institution shall be named the Salford Royal Nurses' Home.

THE average journalist, and indeed the public generally in this country, cannot realize, apparently, that there are male as well as female nurses, and consequently the American male nurses who have come over to nurse on board the *Maine*, have very generally been described in the papers as orderlies. But, as a matter of fact, they, as well as the women nurses, are certificated graduates of their training school. In this country, although there are many so-called "male nurses," it is difficult, if not impossible, to find one who holds the three years' certificate of a general training school; but in the United States there is a thoroughly organized Male Training School in connection with Bellevue Hospital, and the men who pass through it are fully qualified nurses. It is important that this point should be emphasised, because the term "orderly" usually means a man who has gone through a very short and insufficient course of training in elementary nursing in an Army Hospital, and who, by no means, possesses the qualifications of the well trained nurse.

WE promised, last week, some comments on the department of the Englishwoman's Year Book, which is concerned with the nursing of the sick. We notice that the lady who writes the introductory article on this subject re-iterates her statement of last year that "those whose influence is moulding the education and career of the nurse are still feeling their way towards a satisfactory solution of the many problems with which they are confronted." So far as any systematic attempt at organization for dealing with nursing problems is concerned, however, not only is there no movement in this direction, outside the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, but every possible obstacle is put in the way of those who are working for the good of the profession and

for the protection of the interests of the sick. The International Congress of Women, in the summer, was an occasion when, surely, minor differences might have been sunk, and all have combined to make the best possible use of this great opportunity for the furtherance of nursing interests, but the organization of the nursing section of this Congress was not allowed to proceed without most unworthy opposition, which, while it failed to prevent the success of the Congress, yet demonstrated to foreign nurses the obstructive attitude assumed by a certain section of British nurses.

BUT the Congress had the effect of bringing before the many thoughtful woman the problems with which the nursing profession are confronted, and with which the Matrons' Council is honestly trying to deal. It is a matter for great satisfaction that public women are beginning to realize that the difficulties which confront those desirous of nursing reform have their origin to a large extent in the condition of economic dependence of trained nurses. They realize that nurses, more especially private nurses, who are dependent to a great extent upon medical men for their work, and consequently for their bread and butter, will not in any large numbers run counter to self interest, and work for professional reform in the face of active opposition on the part of the medical profession.

THE problem, therefore, stands thus, and the public will not be slow to appreciate it. In the interests of the sick it is necessary that the public, in employing a trained nurse, should be able to know that she has passed through a definite course of training, and has been certified as proficient in her calling. At the present time, inadequately trained nurses, probationers who have been dismissed from hospitals for grave faults, adventuresses, and women who have had no hospital training whatever, all don a nurse's uniform and go out to nurse the sick public. These women, of course, could not obtain employment were it not for the patronage of medical men, and that they flourish in such large numbers is proof that the public cannot hope to obtain protection from the medical profession.

IF, therefore, the medical profession stand aside or are actively opposed to nursing reform, if nurses either from apathy or from self-interested motives neglect their duty to themselves, and to the sick, then the words spoken years ago by Mrs. Strong, the Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, will come true:—"If nurses will not combine, they must be coerced," and the public,

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