

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* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



THERE is just now a wave of enthusiastic sympathy in every hospital in the country for our soldiers in South Africa, and there are few nurses who do not wish to find their way out there. But if the true spirit of nursing inspires the profession, and not motives less single, how is it possible for such occurrences as the fol-

lowing to take place?

ON Saturday last, two inquests were held as to two deaths at the Holborn Union Workhouse. One was that of a man who slipped and fell backwards downstairs. He fractured his thigh, and died from the effects. The other was of a woman who got out of bed, while the nurse was out of the ward, and burned herself with the hot water pipes. The nurse in charge gave evidence that there were only two night nurses to look after 228 patients.

SOME of the many hundreds of nurses whose desire to proceed to South Africa is impossible of fulfilment, may well turn their attention to workhouse nursing. We hope, further, that the day is not far distant when no nurse will be found to accept a post where the duties required are impossible of conscientious fulfilment, such as the care of more than 100 patients. Is it not nearly time that the Local Government Board required that some adequate proportion should be maintained between the number of patients and that of the nursing staff provided?

WHAT is the greatest trial of a long illness? An illness which is not acutely painful has many compensations. There is the rest and quiet unattainable at other times in the rush of work. One's need brings out much latent and, perhaps, unsuspected kindness and affection on the part of relations and friends, there is a relief, after several weeks of struggling, to "keep up" in succumbing at last, in resigning oneself into the hands of competent nurses and being "done for." But—there is a big but. One is rigorously kept in bed. Day after day, Sunday after Sunday, passes, and to go to church is quite out of the question. Doctor and nurse alike put on their most impos-

sible looks when the subject is tentatively mooted, and one is forced to resign oneself to the inevitable, and accept the deprivation.

THUS it was at least until recently, but now there are possibilities undreamt of in bygone days. The electrophone affords to those ill at home, or in hospital wards, the possibility of joining in the service or listening to the sermon at any church or chapel where this invention is installed. Thus, one patient in a ward may ask his nurse to put him on to Father Dolling, another may wish for Dr. Parker. It is all the same. Press the button, and you are at once in touch with the church or chapel you desire to attend, by means of the receiver connected with the transmitter in the church. Verily, illness in these days is shorn of half its terrors.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK has received several appreciative letters from Superintendents of Nursing in America and on the Continent, in relation to her paper, in the *Outlook*, on the "Evolution of the Trained Nurse," emphasizing the fact that new light has been thrown on to the work of Frederica Fliedner by this paper. Mrs. Fenwick brings out the point that this great German nursing pioneer possessed a strong individuality of her own, and was engaged in the arduous labours of the reformer some years before she married the equally benevolent Theodore, Pastor of Kaiserswerth.

"THUS," she writes, "to Frederica Fliedner, the beloved Frau Pastorin of Kaiserswerth on the Rhine, must justly be awarded the credit of initiating the system of training women on a well-defined moral basis in the practical care of the sick; and the great work accomplished by her in her short span of life is extending its beneficence in our own day over the whole face of the earth. In 1840 our own great Elizabeth Fry, a pioneer of trained nursing in England, visited Kaiserswerth, and expressed private and public satisfaction with the work and organization of the young Deaconess Sisterhood; and as Elizabeth Fry was an authority of her times, her opinion increased the popularity of the new nursing system."

"DURING the year 1851 Miss Florence Nightingale, already a great practical philanthropist, spent some months with the Deaconesses at Kaiserswerth studying their system of work, and the results of her magnificent labours in relation to nursing are the heritage of humanity. It is Florence Nightingale who has given to the nursing world practical, tangible laws, who, in her broad-minded and unanswerable works on

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