

**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\* \* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 hear on all sides of the inroads of influenza into hospitals, and in many cases the nursing staffs have suffered most severely from it. What with the unprecedented applications for nurses' services, and the decimation of their ranks by the prevailing complaint, it has, in many instances, been extremely difficult to arrange for the adequate nursing of the sick. It is to be hoped that now the spell of cold weather has apparently been broken, that the number of cases of influenza may decrease. It seems to be especially associated with a low temperature, and it is said that those working in an unusually hot temperature altogether escape.

\* \* \*

THE Editor of *St. George's Hospital Gazette*, in dealing with the news of the Hospital, says:—  
 "The question of the month is undoubtedly '*Quo Fata vocant*'? This is the inscription on the small brooches which now have to be worn by the nurse in charge of every ward. The object of the badge is to enable the visiting physicians or surgeons to see at a glance which nurse is responsible for the ward in the Sister's absence. The innovation, we presume, was considered necessary, if not even asked for, by the Staff, but we fail to see why the blue waist-band previously instituted was not sufficient for the purpose.

\* \* \*

"As regards the actual badge, we presume that it is only an experiment, but the brooch besides being only recognised at close quarters by careful scrutiny, gives one the idea of being very 'cheap' and obviously purchased by the hundred. Would not the Hospital colour of dark green have been more appropriate than the dark blue for the background? And why again '*Quo Fata vocant*'? Why not '*Deus incubat Angui*,' or even '*Quo Medici vocant*'?"

\* \* \*

It is, no doubt, difficult to descend from the heights of contemplation attained in the consideration of questions of abstruse medical science, with which we know the minds of the medical faculty

are, as a rule, engaged, to the discussion of such a mundane subject as nurses' brooches. It is not, however, irrelevant, and perhaps, with the greatest respect, permissible to enquire if the Editor of *St. George's Hospital Gazette* really thinks blue waistbands and green brooches the best and most harmonious combination of colour. We have our own very decided opinion on the subject. Do the authorities of St. George's Hospital consider it entirely *comme-il-faut* for junior members of the medical staff to carefully scrutinize "at close quarters" the nurses' brooches? If not, they may, perhaps, deem it expedient to suggest to the Editor of the *Gazette* that he should invite discussion of nursing matters in the columns of that publication, by the head of the nursing staff, who could, by the way, deal with them from the point of view of an expert.

\* \* \*

AN interesting article on "Women as Gardeners" appeared in the *Woman's Agricultural Times* of last month, by Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D. In discussing the future of gardening as an occupation for women, Mrs. Anderson says:—"I doubt extremely whether a large number of young women will, in the end, be found to greatly enjoy a life in which there can be next to no social side, and where their only companions are young men not their equals in education and social position. The reason why hospital nursing is so popular an employment is, no doubt, mainly that it is eminently social, and that the social element is not all feminine. Gardening will never rival rubbing up hospital brasses, pots, and pans, to say nothing of the more human side of life in the wards, to women in whom the social instincts are well developed. A very large proportion of hospital nurses marry in consequence of making acquaintance with suitable people in their work. They have also abundant opportunity for making friendships with their fellow-workers. The drudgery of work is sweetened by the social side not being unduly suppressed, and hospital life is, as a result, popular in spite of toil of the severest kind and very low wages."

\* \* \*

WITH all respect to Mrs. Garrett Anderson, our experience leads us to believe that hospital work is popular, not because of its social side—for opportunities for social intercourse are, after all, rare—but because of the instinct, strong in so many women, to expend themselves for the good of others. We do not believe that the chances of matrimony afforded thereby enter in the calculations of the large majority of those who determine to enter the profession of nursing. There is no dearth of nurses at the Women's Hospital, Euston Road, where the staff are medical women.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)