

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* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



At the first general meeting of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, held at 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, the Chairman of the Council, who was voted to the chair, explained that they had always hoped to incorporate the Society when the right time came, and framed the rules and carried on the business with that view. Last summer the Council thought that the time had come, and decided to apply to the Board of Trade for Incorporation. They, however, considered it better to say nothing about it to the members in case they might be disappointed.

This course of procedure might at first seem quite unjustifiable, more especially as the Society, which had not been consulted, was asked by the Treasurer to meet the heavy expenditure which had been incurred by the Council in obtaining Incorporation; but it must be remembered that the course taken of keeping the application secret, even from the members, was designed simply to prevent the interested opposition which is invariably organized to wreck any measure which makes for the industrial benefit of women. Therefore, the Council of the Society of Trained Masseuses will claim to be wise in their generation. At any rate, the success which has attended their method of procedure appears to prove so.

At a recent meeting of the West Bromwich Board of Guardians the question of night nursing came up, as the resignation of two night nurses at the Infirmary was reported, making the third within six weeks. Mr. Lawley said he considered it too much to ask women to work continuously at night, and thought that some different arrangements might be made by which the whole nursing staff could do night duty in turn. There is no doubt that continuous night duty is bad for any woman. The life is an entirely unnatural one, and for patients and nurses alike a change is beneficial, as prolonged night duty leads to inertness, which it requires a very conscientious woman

to fight against. Moreover, there is no reason why nurses should be required to do constant night duty. The matter was ultimately referred to the House Committee to report upon.

DR. JAMES LYNASS, Medical Officer to the Belfast Union Infirmary, evidently appreciates the value of trained nursing. In a recent report to the Belfast Board of Guardians he says:—
“The resident surgeons have all ably assisted me in the work by their skilful administration of chloroform (there having been no misadventure) by their personal help in all difficult operations, and by their vigilant care of all cases after operation. I am also pleased to report the excellent work of the staff nurses. Everything depends on their intelligence and fidelity in nursing cases after operation, and in no such case have I been disappointed.” It is always pleasant to note any recognition, on the part of the medical profession, of the work done by nurses.

In the Arthur Road Hospital, Bombay, some of the temporary structures erected for the accommodation of patients at the time of the first plague epidemic, recently collapsed in consequence of the heavy rain and wind. When the accident occurred, one of these sheds contained thirty cholera patients. The patients were under the care of the Second Physician in Charge, the nurses being two European Sisters, Miss Margaret Laing Raits, and Miss Margaret Poole, with ward boys working under them. About half-past 5 o'clock on the day of the accident, it was noticed that the shed was shaking and appeared to give under the force of wind and rain. The patients were, with all possible speed, removed to the next temporary block, and a few minutes afterwards the structure collapsed. It was seen that the second block to which the patients were removed oscillated and threatened to come down, and again the patients were removed to the third block, where they were kept until arrangements were made in the hospital proper. All the sheds came down one after the other within an hour. The *Bombay Gazette* says:—
“Praise cannot be too highly recorded concerning the pluck and presence of mind of the hospital staff, without which the patients would have been injured.”

Lord Tennyson, Governor of South Australia, speaking recently at Adelaide, at the Annual Meeting of the District Trained Nursing Society, said—

“We do not want amateur nurses, like those who have been the curse of the Wynberg Hospital at the Cape—women who live for the love of mere excitement

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