

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



A VERY pleasant "At Home" was given by Miss Edith Debenham, at St. Andrew's House on Saturday last, and a large number of well-wishers of this new Hotel and Club for Nurses, in Mortimer Street, assembled in response to her invitation. The excellent arrangements of the house, the spacious, pleasant furnished corridors, and the dainty colouring and furniture both of the public rooms, and of the nurses' bed-rooms, elicited universal admiration, and the attractive restaurant, with its small tables, was generally approved. Not least was appreciation expressed of the flat roof, which, no doubt, in the summer, will be largely used by the residents. It was generally thought that Miss Debenham has met a want which has long been felt in building this charming Home, which shows in every detail how carefully the needs of nurses have been considered.

THE services of Nursing Sisters M. E. Barker, H. A. Mills, A. Arkle, C. F. Hill, E. B. Greenwood, E. A. Terry and E. Sykes, of the Indian Army Nursing Service, will, on completion of their present engagement, be extended for a further term of five years.

WE could have wished that the points at issue between the Croydon Board of Guardians and Miss Julian, the Matron of the Infirmary, had been dealt with entirely in camera, for the effect of giving publicity to them can only be to injure the training school until the position of the Matron as Superintendent of Nurses is upheld by the Local Government Board. As, however, the matter has now been commented upon in the lay press, we think it well to deal with it from a professional point of view.

THE position of affairs is as follows: Miss Julian, the Matron, declined to sign the certificates of three probationers at the end of their training, on the ground that they were not competent. The Medical Superintendent was of opinion that they were. The Guardians have now agreed to the recommendations of a sub-com-

mittee—(1) that the immediate and preliminary training of the probationer nurses be entrusted to the Ward Sisters; (2) that the Medical Superintendent be requested to undertake the training of the probationer nurses and the periodical lectures to the Charge Nurses and Probationers. What authority can the Superintendent of Nurses have in the Infirmary if these preposterous propositions are put into force? We have no hesitation in saying that their enforcement would mean the ruin of the training school which, under Miss Julian's able superintendence, has attained a very high degree of efficiency, a statement we are justified in making from our personal experience of the work of nurses trained by her. We cannot believe that the Local Government Board will sanction such outrageous regulations, and we are glad to know that Miss Julian has addressed it on this subject, in the following letter, which gives her reasons for her course of action.

SHE writes:—"I cannot believe that the Croydon Board of Guardians have the right to depose me from my recognised position by the Local Government Board as Superintendent of Nurses in the Infirmary or to determine that I shall sign no more certificates of training, and that my duties shall be of a purely domestic character. The resolutions passed by the Guardians on September 18th render the Croydon Infirmary no longer a training school for nurses, and this is a monstrous injustice to the present staff of nurses now in training, and also to those who have left us, and who, on the strength of the certificate granted by the authorities, are practising their profession throughout the country. No reason whatever has been assigned by the Guardians for this drastic treatment. Presumably, therefore, it is for 'conscience sake,' as I refused to sign the certificates of three women who were, in my opinion, utterly unworthy of the name of nurses, and whose general conduct was eminently unsatisfactory. That the probationer nurses are fully alive to the prejudicial effect these resolutions passed by the Guardians will have on their future career, is shown by their letter of remonstrance sent to the Infirmary Visiting Committee this afternoon. . . . I have given ten years of my life to this institution, and I cannot bear to think of it being dragged from its high position in the nursing world by an open scandal. I therefore pray that your honourable Board will give this matter your serious consideration to avert this calamity."

THE Local Government Board must surely

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