

President McKinley's Nurses.

The male nurses who were in attendance on the late President are men of the United States Army Hospital Corps, and were detailed for that duty immediately after the shooting of the President, from the detachment of the Hospital Corps men on duty with the field hospital exhibit of the Army Medical Department at the Pan-American Exposition. The men selected for this duty were Acting Hospital Steward Palmer A. Eliot and Privates Ernest Vollmeyer and John Hodgkins. We learn from the "Medical Record" that all of these men have completed the course of instruction at the school for Hospital Corps men at the Army General Hospital at Washington Barracks, D.C., beside which Steward Eliot is a graduate of the Bellevue Hospital training school for Nurses, and Private Vollmeyer is a graduate nurse of the Presbyterian Hospital of New York City. Private Hodgkins is a soldier of nine years' service in the army and long experience in military hospitals. The efficiency of these men is such as to have elicited much favourable comment from the staff of surgeons in charge of the patient. Army medical officers are much gratified that the Hospital Corps should have been officially connected with the President's case, and have the opportunity of so publicly demonstrating its professional efficiency and the excellence of its personnel. We have as yet received no details concerning the women nurses who had the honour of nursing Mr. McKinley in his last illness.

The Croydon Infirmary.

As was to be expected the resignations from the nursing staff of the Croydon Infirmary have been numerous. Following on others, seven were reported at the last meeting of the Board of Guardians. We do not think that matters will be mended by the action taken by the Committee, authorizing the Medical Superintendent to take steps to fill up the vacancies thus caused, and in the event of an emergency arising, giving him a free hand to fill the vacancies. Of course, if the Medical Superintendent is to superintend the nursing as well as treat the patients, he must fill up the vacancies in the nursing department, but if it is desired that the Superintendent of Nursing be anything more than a figure head, without doubt in an emergency she should select the subordinate officers of the department for the efficiency of which she is held responsible. Well trained nurses shrink from accepting service in institutions where their executive head is not a member of their own profession, but apparently the Croydon Guardians have not yet learnt this lesson.

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.



Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and her party had an opportunity of seeing some of the Canadian Hospitals on the way to Buffalo. At Montreal they went all over the Royal Victoria Hospital, which Mrs. Fenwick describes as a very fine building surrounded by magnificent trees, situated right on the side of a mountain, and backed by lovely woods. They were then taken for a drive round the mountain, from which they obtained a birds-eye view of the city. In the afternoon of the same day they were kindly escorted by Miss Scott, the Assistant Superintendent at the Royal Victoria Hospital, to the Montreal General Hospital, where they were most hospitably welcomed by Miss Shaw, and shown all over the institution, which is beautifully kept and well nursed. Mrs. Fenwick describes Montreal as a very fine city, with lovely avenues of trees, and having many handsome public buildings and private houses.

The question of the desirability of systematic licensing and inspection of private nursing homes is attracting the attention of the lay press. A correspondent writes to "Modern Society" as follows:—

"It appears that it is not only laundries and convicts that would be the better for inspection. From what I hear, the Surgical Nursing Homes in London would be all the more efficient for a little timely supervision by competent judges, and for the necessity of producing a certificated licence, which could be withdrawn in case of incompetence or bad management. There are very many of these institutions in the metropolis, whose terms vary from five to twenty guineas per room, according to the nature of the case and the treatment required. Some of them are admirably conducted, and fitted up with every modern appliance for health and comfort; but of others I hear a very different story.

"In these latter cases they will be carried on by persons who are either ignorant of how to conduct such an establishment, or careless of all results so long as the enterprise be made to pay. Under either condition it appears that the rich patients who go into them find themselves worse off than the poorest of their fellow sufferers who is cared for in a public hospital, or cottage sanatorium. Badly-prepared food, and meals so roughly served, that the well-born invalid is revolted thereby, inadequate domestic attendance,

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