

Nursing Echoes.

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ON July 4th, the Queen received a Deputation with an Address and Souvenir from the Medical Staff of Her Majesty's Hospital Ship "Princess of Wales."

The Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for War to report on the Army Medical Service, which we presume includes the organization of the Army Nursing Service, is a consultative Committee. Its terms of reference will not be submitted to Parliament, it will take no evidence, and it will not consider alternative schemes from other than its members, and its proceedings will be private. At the same time the members of this important Committee will no doubt make every effort individually to avail themselves of expert information on all the branches of the Service, upon which they are to formulate just opinions, and present a report.

In the Nursing Schools attached to large Poor Law Infirmaries, the system of having the probationers examined before they are certificated by an outside medical man is becoming more and more adopted, and it is a step in the right direction, towards an efficient Nursing Examining Board, which will be organised some day.

The Infirmary Committee have just presented a satisfactory report from the Matron, to the Brentford Board of Guardians, in which it states: "Dr. Seymour Sharkey, of St. Thomas' Hospital, London, held the third final examination for nurses in their third year, June 8th and 17th. He writes, 'The examination was very satisfactory, both the written part and the *viva voce* part was well done, and all the nurses passed.' The names of the nurses who passed are—M. A. Raine, M. Green, E. Roberts, M. Freeth, A. Gillard, E. Roche, E. Dockrell, B. Bridges, and L. Keeping."

We understand that Miss Cureton, who for twenty years has been Matron of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, tendered her resignation to the Weekly Board at their meeting on Wednesday last. The prospect

of Miss Cureton severing her connection with the Hospital will be received with regret by all who have been brought into touch with her bright and lovable disposition and skilful management.

The horrible cruelty to children charge brought last week, before the Essex Quarter Sessions, when Chubb Jackson received the light sentence of six months hard labour—the accusation against him having been proved, of starving fatherless children, thrashing girls when naked with cane and birch, and taking the name of God in vain in his sickening public appeals,—would not be complete without besmirching the nursing profession.

A woman of the name of Alice Latter, who assisted him in the Home into which he inveigled poor children, was included in the charge, and she is described in the press as a "nurse," and appeared of course in the dock in nursing uniform. We cannot gather that the magistrate made any enquiries as to her professional qualifications, nor any remarks as to the besmirching of the nursing cloth which her appearance provoked. One thing resulted, the chairman took a lenient view of her case, and she was let off unpunished.

This comes of nurses having no legal status, their cloak is constantly adopted to cover crime. Once we have State Registration, criminals will not flaunt nursing uniform in the dock without enquiry as to their right to wear it, and to pose as trained nurses. We are glad that an increasing number of bogus nurse scandals is arousing a very strong feeling of indignation in the ranks of reputable nurses. After "Buffalo" we must throw ourselves heart and soul into demanding this reform.

A deputation representing the Victorian butter factory managers recently waited on the Minister for Agriculture, to urge the establishment of a dairy college. We wonder when nursing will equal butter in public interest, and a department be organized by Parliament, to which matters of Health could be referred. Nurses would then no doubt "depute" for their much needed College of Nursing.

An English nurse working in Paris writes:

"I wonder if English nurses know how closely our American sisters are—to use their own expression—running us in the matter of training; indeed, it was remarked by an American lately, that in a year or two they will have left us far behind. Since the breaking out of the Boer War, when those nurses belonging to the hospital ship *Maine* received such a welcome in

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