

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* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



The Hon. Mrs. Evelyn Hubbard has handed to the committee of the women's memorial to Queen Victoria, in connection with the Queen's Nurses, the sum of £1,000, as an instalment of the fund being raised by the Mothers' Union for that purpose. This amount has been collected from a vast number of poor women all over the kingdom.

Countess Cadogan presided recently at a meeting of the promoters of the Jubilee Nurses' Fund, held in Dublin Castle. Returns from various collectors showed that a sum slightly exceeding £5,000 had been subscribed. It was resolved to close the fund on the 28th inst.

A letter in the *British Medical Journal*, of February 8th, from Dr. C. G. Havell, of Felixstowe, to which we have alluded in our editorial remarks, points out with much force the need for the Registration of trained nurses by a properly constituted statutory authority. Dr. Havell says:—

"While all medical men bear willing tribute to the ability, faithful service, and zeal of the nursing body as a whole, there are few who do not see every year of their lives, evidence of incapacity, officiousness, and even cruelty, displayed by unfit members of the nursing profession, and who do not frequently have cause to regret that there exists no machinery for the correction of ignorant, and the punishment of wilful, offenders."

Dr. Havell then proceeds to give instances which have come within his own knowledge, of a masseuse who scoffed to the mother of his patient at the treatment she was directed to carry out, and of a nurse "in an elaborately frilled and starched costume who took the occasion of the crisis in a bad case of appendicitis, which had been submitted to operation, to quarrel with her two colleagues on some ridiculous point of precedence, and to refuse them admittance to the patient's room."

He then gives "a glaring example of the ease with which untrained and undesirable women become nurses, and gain entrance to nursing institu-

tions," as brought to light on the conviction of a nurse at the East Suffolk Assizes. "It was shown in evidence that she obtained admittance into the Trained Nurses' Institution, Leeds, in August, 1895, by means of fabricated testimonials. In the same month she was sent to Guy's Hospital by the Institution for training, and dismissed for inferior work and light conduct in the following September. In January, 1896, she was appointed second assistant nurse at the Eastern Fever Hospital, under an assumed name, and left in March of the same year. After various escapades she was appointed first assistant nurse at the North Western Hospital in November, 1898, and dismissed in January, 1899, for falsely asserting that she had not been engaged at the Eastern Hospital. A series of immoral episodes occupied her time until 1901, when, without any training whatever, she re-appears in the nursing world on the staff of a provincial nursing home. It is but fair to say in extenuation that she was described by her counsel at the trial as 'one of the most beautiful and divine women ever created.' It was while in the employ of that institution that she committed the crime of which she was convicted and sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment."

This is by no means an isolated instance. We could mention several even worse, and it is small wonder that the demand for registration grows daily in intensity.

Dr. Havell also puts his finger on another sore spot when he says, "I am informed that some of the surgical homes with which the West End is pervaded recruit their staff among untrained women, and these acquire their training at the expense of patients paying for the highest possible skill, and under the care of the first surgeons in London. I have known a case in which a large cystic thyroid had been removed in one of these institutions, left the night of the operation entirely to herself, helpless, and prostrate."

The question will obtrude itself, how comes it that "the first surgeons in London" permit their patients to be placed in such conditions?

At the Annual Meeting of the Manchester, Salford, and District Branch of the National Union of Women Workers, held in the Lord Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall, Manchester, last week, Miss Louisa Stevenson, who is a Vice-President of the Union, and who is also a member of the Board of Management of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, gave an inspiring address on "Women on Hospital Boards," in which she took occasion to advocate the imperative need for State Registration of Nurses. Miss Stevenson said that, in the past the public had been too confiding with

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