

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* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor; 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 Departmental Committee on Nursing appointed by the Local Government Board has held bi-weekly sittings; and commenced to take evidence on February 17th, when the proceedings were opened by the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association. Mrs. Henry Bonham-Carter, Miss Wilson (Hon. Treasurer, and for many years Hon. Secretary), and Miss Gill (as Secretary), were the appointed representatives of the Executive Committee. Miss Wilson was recalled for further evidence and attended again on February 24th.

Miss Marion Elliston has an admirable article on the wrongs and remedies of the present system of poor law nursing in a recent issue of the *Christian World*. As to the wrongs of the system, Miss Elliston quotes from the reports of Local Government Board Inspectors to be found in Blue Books which, she says, "no one will accuse of undue sentimentality." The well known difficulties arising from the control of trained nurses by untrained Masters and Matrons are referred to as "barriers against which skilful nurses hold it useless to combat—the barriers which shut off from the sick and dying the tender ministrations of skilful and well qualified women." In some Unions we are told the Infirmary wards in organisation and detail are equal to any general hospital. "It scarcely needs saying that the Unions which have 'put these things right' are chiefly those where there are women guardians; and this not because women are necessarily kinder in intention, but because, naturally, nursing is more within their ken, and the friction of overlapping, and interwoven authorities, more within their comprehension. All that is needed is co-ordinating instead of conflicting governments; given that, and an overcrowded profession will be ready, only too gladly to meet the demand for workers."

One or two Unions, we are told, have organised a sufficient nursing staff to undertake the visitation of the sick in receipt of outdoor relief, the out-nurse reporting immediate requirements to the Superintendent Nurse, and obtaining from the

ward stores any urgently needed supplies for poultices, bandages, stimulants, etc., without waiting for an order from the relieving officer.

The hardships which the sick poor both "in" and "out" endure are, says Miss Elliston, not good to contemplate. Referring to the Departmental Enquiry now being held by the Local Government Board, she writes:—"The value of the enquiry and its possibilities of useful result, lie largely with those nurses who have held these posts in the past, coming forward with the definite data and full information of the defects that cramped and crippled the work of the infirmary wards, and presenting it in proper form. By so doing they will not only serve their own profession, but will bring skilled and gentle service within reach of those who have been, and still are, often sorely wronged for want of it."

It will be within the memory of our readers that conspicuous amongst the nurses who did excellent service during the siege of Ladysmith was Mrs. Ludlow, wife of Major Ludlow, who, at the beginning of the siege, placed her services at the disposal of the military authorities. Mrs. Ludlow received her training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and for some years held the position of Matron of the Royal Free Hospital. We are informed that soon after the relief of Ladysmith the officers of the Cavalry Brigade and the Imperial Light Horse wrote to Mrs. Ludlow expressing their desire to send to all the siege nurses a small token of their appreciation of the care and devotion shown by the nurses to their wounded men. Mrs. Ludlow has just received this "small token," which takes the form of a gold brooch, with a red enamelled Maltese Cross in the centre, and in the centre of the cross a diamond star. Beneath the cross is the inscription "Ladysmith, 1900," and on the reverse side is written the name of the recipient.

The Annual meeting of the East London Nursing Society will take place at the Mansion House on Tuesday, March 11th, at 3 p.m., when the Lord Mayor will preside. The Society works in some of the poorest districts of London, and is doing useful work. We note that all the nurses on the staff have been re-vaccinated, and have already assisted in removing small-pox cases, and are doing all in their power to lessen the threatened evils of infection, by inculcating the lesson of the safeguard provided by vaccination, and by sanitary precautions.

During the past year Miss Monkhouse, Matron of the Wapping Division, left to take up work in the Concentration Camps in South Africa, and

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