

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



When five years ago Miss Margaret Breay went the round of the London hospital mortuaries, and wrote of them in this journal, her sympathetic article showed that in the majority of hospitals the mortuary arrangements left much to be desired. To-day the reverent care of the dead is much more universal. There are some beautiful rest chambers for the dead in connection with most of the new or modernised hospitals in London.

Major Evans Gordon, M.P. for Stepney, has just done an exceedingly kind and thoughtful act for the friends of poor patients who die in the London Hospital, says the *East London Observer*. Till about two years ago the arrangements for friends to view the dead bodies at the hospital were very bad. In a dark, badly-lighted cellar there was a large wooden erection, and anyone coming to see a dead body had to see the shell pulled out from this insanitary erection and put back as quickly as possible. This want of the proper care of the dead necessarily added to the grief of a wife or husband, perhaps seeing the dead one for the first time, and the committee of the hospital determined to remedy it. A very pretty little mortuary chapel was built, the walls covered with green and white tiles, with a little waiting-room adjoining, and now when a relative comes to see the body in this chapel it is in surroundings which testify to the fact that the committee of the hospital have been desirous of showing proper respect to the dead, and sympathy for those left to mourn them. But one thing was needed to make this little chapel complete—nice flowers. When Major Evans Gordon heard of this he informed the authorities that he himself would defray the cost of flowers being placed in this chapel every day of the year, and the kindness and generosity of this act have been very widely appreciated.

Mr. George Pilkington, Chairman of the Southport Infirmary, took occasion, upon the nomination of ladies to sit on the new Board of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, to express his warm approval of the principle that women should serve on such committees. He states "that an experience of over twelve months on the Committee of the South-

port Infirmary, where we have several lady members, has shown them to be invaluable colleagues, regular in attendance, careful and painstaking in every detail, and of great assistance to the Board in many matters where their experience and delicate intuition render them especially competent to advise." It is to be hoped that the Trustees at Manchester will not long deprive the sick of their great city of such "invaluable" services on the Board of Management of the M R. I.

We have read many letters of resignation in our time, but nothing quite so plaintive and unmanly as the following epistle, sent by the resident medical officer at the Incorporation Infirmary, Southampton, to the Board of Guardians:—

"Gentlemen,—Herewith I resign my position as resident medical officer, which you conferred upon me on April 10th, 1902. It is just six months since I came here, yet it appears more like six years, on account of the work and worry I have had to go through. I came to you practically straight from one of the leading medical schools of the kingdom, full of hope and thoroughly determined to do my best for the place. I found this Infirmary one of the finest structures in the kingdom, but almost immediately was awakened to the fact that the place was very much under-staffed in every respect, and that I myself, instead of acting, as I thought I had to do, when appointed, as medical officer, had also to be dispenser, bookkeeper, medical store-keeper, and often helping in nothing less than porter's work. This was very discouraging, but even that I intended to master, which I can safely say I have done. But the great worry to me all along, and the only reason for my leaving this institution, is because I cannot work with the Matron (Miss Ballantyne). Now, gentlemen, I must ask you to accept my resignation without trying in any way to stop me, as I have fully considered and determined on this step long ago. It is with great sorrow I am leaving here, but I think it will be all for the best. I hope you will soon be able to fill my place with another resident medical officer, who I hope will work up the place better than I have done, and who will be able to amicably get on with the Matron, which I am sorry I never will be able to do. The only wish I express is that when appointing another new man you will let him know definitely what his duties are to be, and that he will not have to find out for himself afterwards. Now, gentlemen, my last wish is that your Infirmary at Shirley Warren will have every prosperity and do good work for the town of Southampton.

"Yours faithfully,
"JAMES HINDSHAW."

Dr. Hindshaw's resignation was accepted, and it is to be hoped that his successor will be directed that if he finds it necessary to be "dispenser, bookkeeper, medical store keeper, and porter," to say nothing of medical officer, that he will not attempt the impossible by assuming the duties of Matron and Superintendent of Nursing as well. We cannot all be Kaiser Wilhelms!

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