

### 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\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 indisposition of His Majesty the King, who is stated to be suffering from influenza, caused general anxiety on Monday, when it became known that he was unable to fulfil his engagements. It is to be hoped that he will make a safe and speedy recovery.

Miss E. J. Haldane points out that pauper nursing without trained supervision, illegal in England and Ireland, is still permissible in Scotland, and this is a system which must, and does, lead to endless abuses. It is to be hoped that the Departmental Committee of the Scottish Local Government Board on the Sick Poor, now sitting, will make important recommendations on this and kindred subjects.

Lecturing before the Primrose League at North Walsham on her two years' work in the military hospitals and concentration camps in South Africa during the war, Miss K. Brereton said that Mr. Brodrick gave instructions to the members of the Commission to "go everywhere, see everything, and when they came back to tell the truth," which they honestly endeavoured to carry out. The camps visited included those at Mafeking, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, and Pietersburg. The lecturer graphically described the dreary life of the men in the block-houses. Among other places visited by Miss Brereton was Majuba Hill, and touching allusion was made to the graves of our English soldiers there.

Feeling ran high at the last meeting of the West Derby Guardians on a minute passed by the Workhouse Committee to the effect that it was highly reprehensible for any male official to enter the nurses' rooms unless accompanied by the Matron. Dr. Davies (a Guardian), who, it was stated, went into the private rooms of the female officers without knocking at the door, said the statement was a most infamous lie, and that a nurse had been coerced into telling a cock-and-bull story which was a most flagrant perversion of what happened.

We do not propose to enter into the prosand cons of this particular instance. We should have considered it inconceivable that a male officer should "ramble about the female nurses' bedrooms at will" did we

not know of several instances where male hospital officials, not excluding a chairman, have conducted visitors round Nurses' Homes and opened the doors of the nurses' bedrooms unaccompanied by the Matron or Home Sister. It should be a universal rule that when visitors are taken round the private rooms of the female officers in a hospital—and it is natural that supporters of an institution should wish to be personally acquainted with it—they should be put in touch with the Matron, who will depute a nursing official to accompany them. We have no hesitation in saying that in a hospital where the Matron is given her proper position as head of the nursing staff this would be done as a matter of course.

The Private Nursing Committee have recommended to the Swansea Hospital Board the following suggestions:—

"That the private nursing department be managed by a sub-committee, consisting of five members, three to be elected by the House Committee, and two members of the medical staff to be elected by the medical staff.

"That, in future, probationers be engaged for three complete years' training at the hospital, and that it be optional to them whether, with the approval of the Matron and medical staff, they remain the fourth year as private nurses.

"That the Bath Royal United Hospital scale of payment be adopted for the present—viz., first year, £30 and 5 per cent. of earnings; second year, £32 10s. and 7½ ditto; third year, £35 and 10½ ditto; fourth year, £37 10s. and 10 ditto; fifth year, £40 and 10 ditto (maximum).

"That the present charges be adhered to, viz., for one week or part of a week, £1 6s.; for each week or part of a week, for infectious diseases, £2 2s.; for one day or one night, 5s.; attendance at an operation, 7s. 6d.; extra, if nurse sleeps at hospital (per week), 10s. 6d.; and laundry and travelling expenses extra.

That the present regulations for nurses be adhered to.

"That the hospital be charged the same fees as private patients when nurses' services are required in the wards, and that nurses are to be employed in the wards only when required.

"That the private nursing department be charged 3s. a day for maintenance of each nurse when not employed."

The recommendations were all adopted.

A Durban lady, who withholds her name, writes to *South Africa* protesting against what she describes as "a disgraceful state of things at Addington Hospital." She continues: "Is it not, Sir, a most disgraceful and degrading thing that white women (most of them gentlefolks and ladies in every sense of the term) should be employed at this hospital in washing Indian and native patients at the hospital? I am too disgusted and indignant about it almost to write, but I do hope that now that public attention is called to the sickening state of things the scandal will come to

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)