

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



One of the most pressing questions of the day is, how the poorer middle classes—and working women earning less than £100 a year—are to obtain skilled medical or nursing treatment when ill. They are not eligible for voluntary hospitals, and Nursing Homes cannot be made to pay in large cities for a weekly sum within their limited means. What, then, is to be done?

Miss Martin, the proprietress of a beautiful Medical and Surgical Home, situated at Warrington Lodge, Warwick Road, Maida Vale, is doing her part to aid this most deserving class, and we hope her efforts will meet with appreciation from the medical profession. The public will be only too pleased to avail themselves of her scheme when known to them.

Warrington Lodge is a fine, spacious, light, and airy house, and might have been built for its present purpose of a Home Hospital. It is fitted with every comfort for the reception of medical and surgical cases, and an excellent operating theatre is situated on the top floor reserved for patients. But during a recent visit we were most pleased with the contributing ward—that is, two fine rooms thrown into one—where six beds, all snugly curtained off with spotless white dimity curtains, are arranged in the most comfortable manner for the reception of cases at £3 3s. a week.

What a boon to refined women, to whom the publicity of a general hospital ward is intolerable! Here in their own curtained nook they can be as privately cared for as the heart of woman can desire, and at a cost well within the means of many.

Having some experience of Home Hospital expenses, we could not think that the sum charged was a profitable one, and, indeed, Miss Martin owned that it is not. But she argues wisely that the incomes of patients are of a variable quantity, and that it is a great advantage for physicians and surgeons to have their patients under one roof, so that the rich can be provided with spacious private apartments, those with a moderate income with a small-sized room, and those who are comparatively poor with a bed in the curtained ward, so

that in arranging to meet the needs of all Warrington Lodge hopes to gain wide professional support.

Special attention is given to massage and electrical treatment, a thoroughly skilled nurse masseuse being attached to the staff, and a staff of certificated nurses for private cases is also attached to the establishment.

Miss Martin was trained at Middlesex Hospital, and has lately returned from South Africa, where, as a member of the Army Nursing Service Reserve, she did good work for upwards of two years. We wish her work the best of success.

We not long since referred to the conveyance of scarlet fever from fever hospitals owing to want of care and neglect on the part of those responsible. Now, the Editor of *Truth*, in its last issue, after personal inquiries into the prevailing conditions at the Isolation Hospital, Watford, characterises these as “in the last degree scandalous.” We have no hesitation in endorsing this statement if but a modicum of the allegations of our contemporary can be proved.

It alleges that numerous cases have occurred in which scarlet fever has been disseminated by scarlet fever patients discharged from the hospital; that the joint board which manages the hospital had to pay £15 compensation in a case where a boy had been sent out, not only in an infectious, but in a verminous condition; and that a medical man who saw the child stated that he “was in a filthy condition, his head was verminous, and, surgically speaking, the condition of the ear was disgusting”; that other cases of the same character have occurred since, and that similar things have been happening constantly for two or three years past. Further, that only untrained girls of the servant class are on duty at night; that there has been cross infection between the scarlet fever and the diphtheria wards—in short, that the mismanagement is colossal. If isolation hospitals are managed, or, rather, mismanaged, in this way they will prove centres for the dissemination of infection instead of for stamping out disease.

The Royal West of England Sanatorium at Weston-super-Mare is doing excellent work, and it is good to know that it was able to show a balance in hand at the close of the financial year. We are glad to note that the Committee expressed their appreciation at the recent annual meeting of “the very efficient way in which the management of the Sanatorium has been conducted by Miss Mawe, the hon. Lady Superintendent of the institution, and they are most grateful to her for her unvarying kindness and attention.” So much depends in an institution of this kind on the atmosphere and tone

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