

pupils are misled into the undesirable idea of competency, which is eventually disappointing to everyone connected with them. Some few who are more observant than others, with a combination of natural adaptability, accomplished a minimum success. Some seek other fields in foreign countries for self-improvement, giving foundation for the complaint of the people "that as soon as their nurses are in any degree competent they go abroad to better qualify themselves and remain away from Jamaica." We were gravely assured "that the people of Jamaica did not appreciate the nurses and could not pay for their services." In direct contradiction we were assured by the people "that it was impossible to obtain even a fair equivalent in professional services for the remuneration given, and as a result they employed them as little as possible; at the same time they would be more than pleased to patronise competent native nurses."

Investigation proved the truth of the latter statement.

The field appeared in readiness for re-organisation, and we were gratified with the interesting consideration being given the subject, and we earnestly hope to hear in the near future of a modern training-school for nurses, whose aim is the ultimate success of its pupils, and who, in the upbuilding of itself, will find its greatest function in the competent preparation for the ultimate success of its pupils in their own native land.

Among the white population we found people of wealth and education who had travelled abroad in their beloved England and also America, who were fully competent to appreciate and judge of the efficiency of trained nurses—both at home and abroad.

Many expressed freely the hope that Jamaica might be supplied with a better training-school in connection with their hospital or dispensary service, which is equivalent to our district medical service and nursing.

The cry of "lack of funds" was not verified, as the amount expended by the present administration exceeds that used in several of our own successful schools of equal size.

The rates charged for professional services by the graduates were, in consideration of the personal expenses of the nurses, quite parallel with our own salaries, and the private hospital charges for questionable services were in excess of those charged by our hospitals for private rooms and professional attendance; therefore, it was not surprising that it closed but recently on account of "lack of funds," the people appreciating its true value.

It is certainly to be hoped that ere long our profession will be suitably represented in the beautiful tropical island of Jamaica, where to an interested observer the situation appeals to our professional pride.—*The Trained Nurse.*

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.*



Queen Alexandra, the Dowager Empress of Russia, and the Crown Prince of Denmark paid a visit this week to Professor Finsen's hospital and laboratory for the light cure of lupus. Professor Finsen gave the Royal visitors an explanation of his system of treatment. The Queen's practical interest in the application of this system to sufferers in this country is

well known.

The Duchess of Albany has fixed Monday, June 8th, as the date of her visit to Kingston-on-Thames, where she has consented to open a new building which has been acquired by the Kingston Nursing Association for the extension of its work. Her Royal Highness will be asked to accept purses of two pounds and upwards towards the building.

The Romford Guardians have expressed their indebtedness to Superintendent Nurse Ryder and Charge Nurse Edmonds, of the Romford Infirmary, by presenting them with watches bearing the inscription "Presented to ——— by the Guardians for valuable voluntary service during a small-pox epidemic." The Chairman, in making the presentation, said that the Guardians had adopted an unusual course in making the presentation, but the circumstances of the case were exceptional, in view of the valuable services the nurses had rendered.

Nurses, as a whole, did not show themselves anxious to nurse small-pox during the recent epidemic, neither have any honours fallen to their share. We are glad, therefore, that the Romford Guardians have shown themselves appreciative of the work of their nurses in this connection.

At the annual meeting of the Salisbury Nurses' Home, the Chairman, the Dean of Salisbury, said the main work of the Home consisted of nursing being supplied both to those who were able to pay an equivalent for the service of the skilled nurse, and also for those who were unable to pay for the nurse's services. In such case the remuneration to the nurses for their work was provided partly by means of subscriptions, and partly, as they would see from the balance-sheet, by the Home itself out of its earnings. The Home, from its

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)