

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Mrs. Sarah A. Tooley, in an article in the *Lady's Realm*, entitled "Queen Alexandra as a Sick Nurse," says:—"The distinguishing qualities of the Queen as a sick nurse are the gift of silence—never more golden than in the presence of suffering—an absolutely calm and unruffled demeanour, a gentle hand, a low voice and implicit acquiescence in the medical orders. She possesses, too, remarkable power of endurance, an example of which occurred during the last illness of the Queen of Denmark. The dying Queen was so much soothed by the presence of her beloved daughter 'Alexandra,' that the Princess of Wales, as the Queen then was, would scarcely leave the room, fearing to disturb the serenity of her mother's last days. On one occasion, she remained fourteen hours without intermission, and only consented to take rest when the doctors became imperative in their orders to the nurses that they must persuade the 'Princess' to leave her mother's bedside."

Those who have accompanied the Queen in a round of a hospital ward cannot but realise that she is genuinely interested in sick folk. On one occasion, after a two hours' tour at "Bart's," the King, then Prince of Wales, was heard to remark, "Oh, the Princess will stay all day if left to herself. She will never tear herself away from the patients."

We learn that the constant and unwarranted attacks on the management of the Nurses' Co-operation in the columns of a contemporary are causing considerable indignation amongst the nursing staff, which is not a matter for surprise, as even unsubstantiated statements of the existence of scandals and mismanagement if repeated often enough are calculated to injure an institution. Probably the offence of the Nurses' Co-operation consists in its having failed to appoint to a position of omnipotence in the management of its affairs the Editor of the said journal. *Hinc ille lachrymæ.*

We have frequently had occasion to draw attention to the inflammable nature of flannelette, and the consequent danger of its employment for under and other clothing. Even now, nurses have

not entirely discarded this material for their own wear, whilst amongst the artisan classes its cheapness and warmth still causes it to be employed to a dangerous extent. Recently the death of a child at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital was the subject of an inquest before the city coroner, who, in summing up, drew attention to the inflammable nature of the material in which the child was attired at the time. At the same time, he pointed out that if used this material should be dipped in a solution of sodii tungstas. A still better plan, in our view, is to discard so dangerous a material entirely. An excellent substitute is "Viyella," which is now so well known, and is obtainable in so many charming colourings that flannelette may well be consigned to oblivion.

Much is heard of the long hours of asylum attendants, of the inadequacy of their education, and other details of their work. But a point which receives less attention is the danger which they incur in the discharge of their duty. Recently this has received sad demonstration in the case of an attendant at Sedgfield Asylum, Stockton-on-Tees. One of a gang of patients who was digging in the gardens was reprimanded by an attendant, and immediately raised his spade and struck the attendant on the head, killing him instantly.

Mr. M'Givering is evidently not a *persona grata* with the nursing staff of the Wirral Joint Hospital—to judge from the little amenities which passed between them at a recent board meeting.

A letter was read from the nurses, protesting "against the unkind witticisms of Mr. M'Givering through the Press."

The letter continued:—"We think it most ungenerous of that gentleman to speak of us in the manner he did, and hold us up to the ridicule of other hospitals and the public in general. Newspapers are not alone provided for the nurses, but for any of the patients who are old enough to take an interest in public matters."

Mr. M'Givering: I think these 'ere persons ought to be discharged for taking such a liberty. They are a forward lot of young people. I still protest against them having periodicals and those sort of things at the expense of the ratepayers.

We are sorry to observe that the Committee of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital still anticipates utilising their private nurses' labour as a "financial assistance to the hospital." As Mr. Young, one of the committee, plainly puts it—nurses are to blame for accepting "sweating" terms of service.

Miss Fullagar, the lately-appointed Lady Superintendent of Mercers' Hospital, Dublin, who has recently joined the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, received her professional train-

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