

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\* \* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



Sir Hugh H. Smiley, who has already contributed to the Countess of Dudley's Nursing Fund, has sent a further donation of £5,000. In connection with the gift he wrote to Lady Dudley:—"Since Queen Alexandra has been in Ireland she has won all hearts by her kindness and consideration for the poor and suffering, and it must have

occurred to many that advantage ought to be taken of the visit now drawing to a close to show in some tangible form our appreciation of her constant goodness. Now that Her Majesty has by her example and her encouraging words virtually associated herself with your Excellency's appeal on behalf of the Nurses' Fund, it seems to me that no better opportunity could be hoped for, and that a united effort ought to be made to gratify the Queen's expressed wish by raising without further delay a sum sufficient for the permanent endowment of resident nurses in considerable numbers in poor districts. You have made, as I know, a close and sympathetic personal study of the condition of those districts, and I heartily agree with you that no greater service could be rendered to the people than by providing what is not only an obviously needed help in sickness, but will also tend to elevate those assisted in many indirect ways."

We regret to observe that the regulations recently laid down by the Fulham Board of Guardians in relation to the duties of the Matron of their infirmary at Hammersmith show a disposition to subordinate the head of the nursing department to the Medical Superintendent, in relation to her executive duties, instead of holding her responsible directly to the Board for their due performance.

For instance, after visiting the wards she is

"To record in her Report Book the date and hour of her visit, the state of the ward, &c., together with any observation or suggestion that may be requisite to make thereon, and to submit such Report Book to the Medical Superintendent at his office every Saturday morning, and oftener if circumstances require."

The Matron is also—

"To enter in her Report Book an explicit statement of any defects in the arrangements of the

wards, or of any negligence or misconduct on the part of any of the nurses, assistants, or servants, to lay such report immediately before the Medical Superintendent, and to carry out his directions thereon."

"To inform the Medical Superintendent when she purposes being absent from the infirmary."

"To report to the Medical Superintendent any change she may propose to make in the distribution of the nursing staff before she makes such change."

"To report to the Medical Superintendent any nurse or female servant who . . . fails to come on duty at the proper time."

Such rules are greatly to be regretted, because not only do they place upon the Medical Superintendent duties which, considering he is responsible for the medical treatment of all the patients, should not be imposed upon him, but also they detract from general efficiency by making the Matron merely a channel for the conveyance of the orders of the Medical Superintendent to the nursing staff, instead of giving her the chief executive authority in relation to the female staff. The latter method has over and over again been proved to be productive of the best results in training-school organisation.

In this connection it must be remembered that Miss Florence Nightingale holds as essential the investment of "the authority and discipline over all the women of a trained lady superintendent, who is also Matron of the hospital, and who is herself the best nurse in the hospital, the example and leader of her nurses in all that she wishes her nurses to be, in all that training is to make her nurses."

Any nurses or organisation of nurses who do not accept Sir Henry Burdett's dictatorship in their affairs must be prepared to run the gauntlet of misrepresentation in his weekly organ. Therefore, it will surprise no one that he loses no opportunity of pursuing this policy in relation to the Nurses' Co-operation. His overtures to the Co-operation some years since in respect to a house for a residential home at Clapham, coupled with some rooms above his newspaper offices for a club and restaurant, were not received with the enthusiasm which he apparently expected, but later the generous offer of the late Lady Howard de Walden of the lease of some property of her own in Langham Street, with a sum towards a building fund, was gratefully accepted. Since then the nurses of the Co-operation have had ample opportunity of observing Sir Henry Burdett's tactics towards those who offend him. Recently the Committee of the Co-operation have found it expedient to make certain changes in the management of the Howard de Walden Home, and they are certainly wise in considering that for the success of the restaurant, which forms so important a part of the work of the club,

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