

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\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Miss Sidney J. Browne has been gazetted Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. So far, although she has acted in this capacity for the last eighteen months, her official position has been that of temporary Matron-in-Chief. It will be remembered that when the appointment was made Miss Browne was still in

South Africa, where her fine work during the war attracted well-merited attention, and gained for her the decoration of the Royal Red Cross. As the appointment of a Matron-in-Chief of the Military Nursing Service, or indeed of any of the Government Nursing Services, was a new departure, no doubt the Secretary of State for War was well advised to make it a temporary one in the first instance, until personal acquaintance with the new officer, and practical experience of her work, had justified its wisdom. Miss Sidney Browne's many friends in the nursing world had never any doubt that the appointment would prove as wise as it was popular, and, unquestionably, results have shown their belief was well founded.

Army Orders issued recently provide that the pay of nurses employed in hospitals for women and children and for infectious diseases shall be at the following rates:—

	Aldershot.	Other Stations.
	s. d.	s. d.
Head nurse ... .. daily	4 0	3 0
Nurse... ..	2 0	
After 5 years' service as such ... ..	2 6	

When treated in hospital they shall be entitled to receive their pay for a period not exceeding two months in the year.

Mr. Talbot, last week, in the House of Commons, asked the President of the Local Government Board whether he could give an assurance that no action would be taken with regard to the recognition of qualified nurses for workhouse infirmaries until full opportunity had been given for considering the objections taken to such appointments. Mr. Long said in reply: I can assure my right hon. friend that no action will be taken without due

consideration of all representations made to me in connection with the report of the Departmental Committee.

This is satisfactory so far, and shows the value of making such representations.

In connection with District Nursing for paying patients Miss Louisa Twining writes to the *Guardian*:—"Those who have read with interest the statements made on this subject may be glad to know that the plan for assisting paying patients to share in the benefits of district nursing was suggested when the Association for the Poor of Kensington was started nineteen years ago; it was then urged by our President, the Vicar (now Bishop of Peterborough), that the nursing of the middle classes was as much needed as of the poorer, and we found we were occasionally obliged to attend cases in tradesmen's families, but any further development was then impossible. It is, therefore, with great satisfaction that we hear of the organised extension of the plan, which will, no doubt, progress rapidly. For some few years it has been carried on privately by some lady nurses in Kensington and Chelsea, who have thus prepared the way and shown the need for the extension of organised work." The nursing of the middle classes is a subject which demands increasing attention until it has been adequately grappled with.

Miss E. M. Waind gives some amusing instances of the experiences of private nurses in the current issue of the *League News* of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. Thus, though some employers expect their nurses to be teetotalers, that all are not expected to be so is proved by the remark made to a nurse soon after her arrival at one house: "Your lunch is ready for you, miss, but the *barrel* of beer ordered in for you has not come yet"! N.B.—The nurse was expected to remain only one week!

Again, "strange indeed are the experiences to be met with in some households. Perhaps the astonishment of one nurse would have been shared by most of us when she inadvertently discovered a favourite game below stairs. It was in a very large and important household; her patient, the butler, slept in a room near the servants' hall, through which she had to pass to obtain hot water. Round the table were seated men and maid servants busily piecing together letters from the waste-paper baskets upstairs. The first completed letter won the prize."

The Western Poor Law Conference will be held at the Guildhall, Exeter, on October 6th and 7th, under the presidency of Sir Thomas Acland, Bart. The Mayor of Exeter will open the Conference at 2.30 on October 6th, and welcome delegates to the city. A paper on "Pauper Nursing" will be read

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)