

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\* \* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



A branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses has been established at Sheffield. In advocating the scheme at the inaugural meeting, Alderman Franklin said that up to the present Sheffield had the unenviable notoriety of being almost the only big town in the country where a branch of this institution had not been established.

They were anxious, in remedying this defect, he might say, to work in complete harmony with the other similar institutions established in the city, so that they desired, as far as possible, to secure co-ordination between them. It was understood that there ought to be one nurse to every 1,000 of the population. On that basis there should be forty-two nurses in Sheffield, whereas at present there were only twenty, maintained by private benevolence and by the various charities and religious and other similar institutions. So it would be seen that Sheffield was now very inadequately supplied with district nurses to take up their duties amongst the sick poor. One of the great objects of the formation of the branch was to centralise the work—to establish one centre for all the district nurses, so that in cases of poverty and sickness there would be one place to which everyone would know he could go for help, sympathy, and intelligence.

Miss Amy Hughes gave an interesting account of the inception and career of the Institute and of its methods and work. She explained, with regard to the apprehension that the work of the district nurses and that of the nurses of the Institute would clash, that in every place where branches had as yet been established similar work had already been started by means of district nurses. Their rule was not to touch those parishes where there was a desire to keep the nurse already working there. She added that though the branches were not under the control of the Institute in London there was one thread that held all the branches to the headquarters, and that was the periodical inspection of the nurses by the inspectors of the Institute.

The Report of the Workhouse Nursing Association for 1902 contains a summary of some of the

work done during the past twenty-three years. In regard to the present and future position of the Association and its work, it is stated that, though the nature of its efforts has altered, and does not now include the training or supply of nurses, it is the opinion of those best fitted to judge that it is desirable the Association should be still carried on as a useful link between Boards of Guardians, the public, and the nursing profession as a whole. The Report deals fully with that of the Departmental Committee appointed by the President of the Local Government Board to inquire into the nursing of the sick poor in workhouses. The Report gives the text of the memorial to the President of the Local Government Board on the subject of the Qualified Nurse, which was widely and influentially signed, and notes the various resolutions and memorials, including a resolution from the Matrons' Council, which were sent to Mr. Long.

A supplementary memorial from the Executive Committee of the Workhouse Nursing Association objects—

1. To the proposed reduction in the number of Superintendent Nurses.
2. To the joint appointment of workhouse Matron and trained nurse.

We think the latter objection is worded inadvisedly, and is based on a misconception. The view of those who desire to see the Matron a trained nurse is that, having been appointed as the chief female officer in the workhouse, her position, as such, should be recognised; but, equally, if she undertakes to do superintendent work she should have the qualifications fitting her to do so. It is quite impossible that she should be in a position to superintend the sick wards, or to know if those working in them are performing their work efficiently or not, if she is herself untrained. The position is not that there should be a "joint appointment of workhouse Matron and trained nurse," but that a workhouse Matron who has to superintend the work of trained nurses and probationers, though not to act as a nurse, should herself be certificated. To go down to the root of the matter, we believe the difficulty lies in the joint appointment of man and wife as Master and Matron. It is quite as unnecessary, and, indeed, inexpedient, as that the Medical Superintendent and Matron of an infirmary should bear the same relation to one another. If the appointments were distinct, there is little doubt that in advertisements for workhouse Matrons we should soon find the words "Preference will be given to candidates holding certificates of training as nurses." At present, Guardians who desire to make such an appointment can only do so by the somewhat circuitous method of appointing a Master who has married a

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