

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



After the New Year it is proposed to hold several meetings at 431, Oxford Street—the new offices of the Registered Nurses' Society—where there is a fine room to be used for such purposes, to discuss the Nurses' Bill for State Registration of Nurses. It is thought that many nurses would like to know the pros and cons of the various clauses, and would thus be encouraged to help the movement by explaining it in turn to their friends.

District nursing is one of the most useful forms of nursing work, but one for which it seems very difficult to raise adequate funds. An effort has recently been made to rouse public interest in the District Nurses' Home at Hulme, which is a branch of an organisation covering Manchester and Salford, and which was inaugurated in 1864. There are now seven nurses at work in connection with the Hulme Home, but they are all too few for the work which needs doing, as will be realised when we say that they paid 25,405 visits last year. At the recent meeting, Miss Olga Hertz made a strong appeal for help, on the ground that sick nursing was a thoroughly satisfactory form of charity. There was no danger of pauperising, for the nurses gave to the poor what they could not possibly provide for themselves, and what was at the same time essential.

No more useful institutions exist than the convalescent homes which receive those who pass all too swiftly through the wards of our hospitals, and who still need skilled care, careful feeding, and fresh air if they are not to lose ground. Prominent amongst these homes in the first rank is the Royal West of England Sanatorium, Weston-super-Mare, where, under the capable superintendence of the Hon. Lady Superintendent, Miss Edith Mawe, the patients not only have the benefit of the healthful, invigorating breezes blowing up the Bristol Channel, but also have the advantage of skilled nursing.

In this connection Miss Mawe says:—"The convalescent nursing needs much care and constant watching; there are relapses and emergencies of every sort. Only very conscientious nurses are

good for this work. When patients can go in and out they can evade notice better than those in a bed or in a ward. They must be put upon their honour not to get drink or unwholesome food outside, and watched to see if they have carried out orders; as a noted divine in one of his speeches said, 'We have to tell men the right road, and then see that they take it.'"

The following pathetic incident is published by the *Westminster Gazette*. In one of the smaller provincial workhouses a feeble old man, assisted by another pauper, was making his way with tottering steps from the "body of the house" to a ward in the infirmary. The reception he met with from the pauper wardsmen in charge was anything but inviting:

"Why couldn't you wait till after supper before coming up?"

"Doctor said as how I was to come at once."

"Well, take off your things and get into bed; you'll never get up any more, that's a sure thing."

"That's what doctor said: 'Go to bed,' says he, 'and have a rest.' 'But doctor,' I says, 'I be thinking my work's done, and 'tis the long rest that's a-coming; eighty-five and never give up afore; I be ready, for sure, but I warrant that some on 'em will miss me when they be sawing up the wood.'"

"Hold your bother and get off your clothes."

"I won't bother 'ee for long; the Master's coming for me soon, and I be ready to go wi' 'un—can I have my weskit under my pillow?"

"No, you can't—what do you want your waistcoat under your pillow for?"

"There's a bit o' 'bacca in it."

"Put the 'bacca on the chair; you can't keep your clothes, you'll never want 'em no more; off with your stockings."

"Now, do 'ee let me lave on my stockings; they be clane on to-day and won't do no harm. I do get the cramp so in the night if I don't keep my stockings on."

"In you get. I've got something else to do besides bothering about with you."

"I won't be a bother to 'ee for long. O Lord! make haste, make haste and take me to 'ee."

Every word of this is true, and (says the correspondent who sends it) if such things can be done with a guardian sitting in the ward, how do the old folks fare with pauper wardsmen when there is no one about?

The Yorkshire Co-operation for Nurses and Nursing Homes, Limited, has just been registered with a capital of £5,000, in £10 shares, to acquire the business of nursing homes for patients undergoing massage, medical, surgical, or other treatment, and for maternity cases, carried on at 22 and 24, Clarendon Road, and 9 and 15, Hyde Terrace, Leeds, by Miss Alice M. Wall, Miss Kate Atkinson, and Miss Edith A. Woodcock, professional nurses, under the style of the Yorkshire Co-operation for Nurses and Nursing Homes, with the benefit of the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)