

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



Her Majesty Queen Alexandra has been pleased to nominate Nursing Sister Lees to her vacant "Alexandra" bed in the British Home and Hospital for Incurables.

Referring to the case which we reported last week, in which the Executors of the late Colonel des Barres brought an action against Miss Irene Kate Hayles, Messrs. George and William Webb, of 39, New Broad Street, solicitors for Miss Hayles, have written to the Press:—"We observe it is suggested that the defendant (our client) had wrongfully taken away jewellery, plate, and gold coins. Plaintiff's counsel stated that there was no suggestion that the defendant had wrongfully taken any of these things. A settlement was arrived at under which, in addition to certain shares, these gifts to our client were, with one small exception, agreed to be retained by her."

The Vicar of Gorleston, in Norfolk, is evidently of a dramatic turn of mind. He it was who had Mrs. Brown Potter recite in his church, and now we note that nurses in uniform took up the offertory in Gorleston Church last Sunday for the local cottage hospital.

Miss Alice Rimington, who is well known in the nursing world as an able administrator, has resigned her present position as Lady Superintendent at Bancroft's School, Woodford Green, and will open, on August 1st, a high-class boarding-house—"Kingsthorpe"—at 13, Regency Square, Brighton. We learn that the house is beautifully furnished and decorated, and is most comfortable in every way. It is close to the sea and West Pier. Miss Rimington has held the position of Matron at the Guest Hospital, Dudley, as well as at the General Hospital, Nottingham, so that she is thoroughly qualified to take care of invalids. We feel sure that many convalescents will be glad to know of a house at the sea where they will be made thoroughly comfortable, and where the Superintendent is a well-trained nurse.

We are glad to note that Miss Palmer, the Superintendent Nurse at the Oulton Workhouse, has successfully carried her request for temporary

nursing help during the annual leave of the nurses. As a rule the nursing staffs of workhouse infirmaries are not organised on lines which permit of their undertaking any extra work. It is a matter of some importance that the nursing, both of hospitals and infirmaries, should be kept up to the ordinary condition of efficiency without overworking a reduced staff.

Several important points were raised in the course of a discussion which took place recently at a meeting of the Portsmouth Guardians in relation to the appointment of nurses. Mr. E. S. Main moved as a resolution:—

"To call the attention of the Board to the present system of the selection of candidates for the position of nurses, and to move that in all future appointments the selection shall be made by the respective Committees and not by the paid officials of the Board."

In speaking to the resolution, Mr. Main said that the present system placed the selection of nurses and probationers entirely in the hands of the Matron of the Infirmary, who was a very excellent official. But if they gave an official the powers which they ought to exercise themselves it was possible that at times errors might arise, as in one case error had already arisen. The case he referred to was one in which a candidate for the position of charge-nurse was not presented for election because, as the result of private inquiries made by the Matron of the Infirmary, it was reported that she was not qualified for the post. The nurse in question held a testimonial signed by the late Sir W. King, three medical gentlemen, and a former Matron. Their Matron had been shown an entry in a book made by the ex-Matron of the hospital (the same who had signed the testimonial) which influenced her in her report to the Committee.

The Vice-Chairman (Mr. T. H. F. Pickles) said that the selection of nurses had been delegated to the chairman of the Committee, with the aid of the doctor and Matron.

Mr. Woodeson said the situation was most dangerous and mischievous. The Spanish Inquisition was nothing in comparison to it. The Committee went behind testimonials to the secret entry of one woman against another. There was no fury in hell equal to one woman's hatred of another.

Mr. Davis, the Chairman of the Infirmary Committee, pointed out that it was the duty of charge nurses in the Infirmary to instruct probationers, and it was laid down that they should have passed an examination. The candidate in question had not done so, and she was rejected wholly and solely on the ground that her qualifications did not fit her for the post.

Mr. Booker said it was evident that the standard at the Infirmary was higher than that at the Hospital.

Mr. Cousens said that as a member of the Com-

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