

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* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



We are glad to see any reference to nursing matters in the House of Commons, as we think that questions of nursing interest have been left too long in abeyance. On Monday last Mr. Arnold-Forster, in answer to a question from Dr. Farquharson, gave details of the increased scale of remuneration and pensions of the members of the Military Nursing Service, and said that a Royal Warrant would shortly be issued fixing the salary of staff nurses at £40 to £45 per annum, instead of £30 to £35, with a corresponding increase in the salaries of those holding higher appointments.

We thoroughly endorse the opinion expressed by Dr. H. P. Dean that the Matron's report as to the work of the nurses during their training, together with the results of the class examinations held by the teachers, should have due consideration in the award of certificates. Twenty years ago, as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, we realised the importance of this point, and, of the 600 marks awarded in the examination of nurses, 200 were given by the physician examining, 200 by the surgeon, and 200 by the Matron; the Matron's marks were divided under the headings obedience, punctuality, ward management, kindness to patients, the maximum being 50 in each case. Without obtaining a considerable percentage of the Matron's marks it was thus impossible for probationers to take a high place in the class list. It will thus be seen that practical and moral qualities had due consideration in the award of certificates, and no doubt when we have a central examination much weight will be given to this side of training, and we are glad to note that in America increasing emphasis is being laid on the value of practical work. At present we know of few hospitals in this country where a systematic record is kept of nurses' practical and moral qualities during their training. We should be glad to hear from any Matrons of training-schools where such a custom is in force, and to receive samples of the schedules on which such returns are made. Meanwhile, we would remind the Central Hospital Council and others who complain that the tendency of examinations is to bring to the

front nurses whose theory is good, but who are not remarkable as good practical nurses, that the examinations of nurses as authorised by them are almost exclusively held on theoretical subjects. They are conducted entirely by medical men, neither the Matron nor any outside nurse participating. It is not surprising, therefore, that at present the tendency of examinations should be to develop the theoretical nurse. When we have a Central Nursing Board on which nurses have adequate representation it is presumable that considerable attention will be paid to the candidates' knowledge of practical work.

The suicide of a patient under treatment for pneumonia at University College Hospital occurred recently under somewhat extraordinary circumstances. The man, who was stated to be ordinarily steady and cheerful, opened a window and jumped out, falling forty feet. Death was instantaneous. The tragedy is the more incomprehensible because the hospital windows open only at the top, having been so constructed with the object of guarding against accidents of this kind. The unfortunate patient, therefore, had to climb on the radiator and pull down the top half of the window before he could accomplish his purpose. Where were the nurses while this was going on? Surely no patient, delirious from pneumonia, would be able to climb out of the top of a window unobserved if an attendant had been in the ward.

At the annual "At Home" of the nursing staff of the Edinburgh Fever Hospital, Colinton Mains, which took place in the Recreation Hall, a number of visitors were present, including the Lord Provost, Sir Robert Cranston; Councillor Lang Todd, Convener of the Public Health Committee; Sir Henry Littlejohn, Medical Officer of Health; as well as nurses and officials from the Royal Infirmary, the Sick Children's Hospital, Chalmer's Hospital, the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and the Craig House Asylum. The guests were received in the Recreation Hall by the Matron, Miss Thomas, and the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Ker.

The South Uist District Committee of the Inverness County Council have passed a minute in reply to the charges made by Mr. James Irvine in connection with the sad death of his sister while nursing typhoid cases in South Uist, to which we have already alluded. After expressing the most sincere regret for the nurse's death, the Committee most emphatically contradict most of the statements made by Mr. Irvine. The Committee are defraying all the funeral expenses incurred locally. A writer in a local paper also says:—"Surely Mr. Irvine must have unusual ideas when he designates the public school buildings, approved by the Education Department, and the

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