

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* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



The next examination for the certificate in nursing and attending on the insane in connection with the Medico-Psychological Association will be held on Monday, November 7th. Candidates should obtain from the registrar, Dr. Alfred Miller, Hatton Asylum, Warwick, a schedule to be filled up, signed, and returned to him at least four weeks before the date fixed for the examination. Monday, October 10th, will be the last day upon which, according to the rules, candidates can enter their names for the November examination.

Miss Henderson (Sister Frances), who since 1885 has been connected with St. Bartholomew's Hospital as Home Sister at the special probationers' home, and afterwards at the hospital, is resigning her position next month. She is well known to, and very popular with, generations of Bart's nurses, many of whom are indebted to her for very many kindnesses. A movement is on foot to give tangible expression to the esteem and affection in which she is held, and we do not doubt it will be widely supported.

Lady Ulrica Duncombe, whose marriage with Colonel Everard Baring took place last week, showed her practical interest in nursing matters by entering the London Hospital for training as a nurse.

Elizabeth Foster, a woman seventy-nine years of age, who was charged on the coroner's warrant with the manslaughter of Mrs. Edwards, of St. Stephen's Terrace, Buckhurst Hill, to whom she had acted as nurse (or was it midwife), was again brought up at Stratford last week. Evidence was given that the omission on which the charge was founded was in reality part of the doctor's duty to deal with, and that the accused had twice sent for a doctor. She was therefore discharged, the chairman of the magistrates expressing regret that a woman of her age had been put to inconvenience.

At the meeting of the St. Thomas's (Exeter) Board of Guardians held recently it was decided that no contribution should be given towards the expense of district nursing unless the nurse was duly qualified to the satisfaction of the district

medical officer. This is a wise decision pending the enforcement by the State of a minimum standard of education qualifying for recognition as a trained nurse.

At a recent meeting of the Prestwich Board of Guardians, the Clerk read the following letter from a candidate who declined to take up the appointment of nurse:—

"I write to inform you that I do not care to accept the position of nurse at your hospital, as I did not take to the hospital when I saw it, and I am not fond of nursing females. I prefer to nurse male patients. I am sorry to disappoint you. I would have told you on Thursday, but I was afraid you would not have paid my expenses, as when I told the Guardians belonging to another Union that I refused to accept the appointment I did not get my expenses, not even my train fare. I am afraid I should not suit. Mr. — spoke highly of the workhouse, and said he was sure I would be comfortable, but I do not think so. Trusting you will forgive me for not telling you at once, as I am usually straightforward, although I am aware I have not acted so in this case. I hope you will be successful in obtaining another nurse."

We have previously expressed the opinion that a nurse who declines to take up an appointment has no right to expect any expenses which she may have incurred in connection with it to be defrayed out of public money.

The fourth annual report of the Swadlincote and District Nursing Association has just been issued. From it we learn that the enlargement of the area covered by the Association has entirely justified itself. Nurse Bacon, who was located at Woodville, has been kept busily occupied throughout the whole year, and her services have been highly appreciated on every hand. Other parts of the district have brought their claims before the Association, and will have to be considered as soon as the funds will allow. Nurse Humphries having decided to relinquish district nursing, has placed her resignation in the hands of the secretary. In view of the excellent work she has done, the Committee have accepted it with regret, and state that her services in and around Swadlincote have endeared her to a wide circle of friends, who will wish her every success in the future. The Committee desire to place on record their high appreciation of her skill, kindness, and cheerfulness during her term of service under the Association.

Referring to the reluctance of the Matron of the Victoria Hospital, Keighley, to allow the nurses in the hospital to give evidence at coroners' inquests, the *British Medical Journal* says:—

"It must not be forgotten that coroners possess very large powers as regards summoning witnesses and enforcing their attendance, and if those summoned to give evidence at a coroner's court do not appear, they absent themselves at their peril.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)