

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* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 have pleasure in announcing that in order to give personal support to this Journal and to the policy for which it has stood, and will always stand—viz., that an efficient standard of Nursing Education should be defined by a Central Authority, in order to elevate Nursing into a recognised profession, organised and controlled by the State, the following ladies will, for the future, give their active co-operation, thus lightening the work of the Editor and Sub-Editor, who have filled these onerous positions, the former for nearly twelve years, and the latter for nine years, during which time the Journal, in its work for the organisation of the profession, and the State Registration of Trained Nurses, has had ceaselessly to stand for and defend the principles upon which alone a nursing profession can be honourably founded.

Every other paper in this country purporting to be edited in the interests of nurses has found it expedient off and on to support those who were determined to rule and to dominate the nurses of this country, denying to them a just meed of protection, regulation, and definite standing under the laws of the State.

The ladies, who have consented to collaborate with us are Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Miss Mollott, Matron of the Royal South Hants Hospital, Miss Mary Burr, and Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses.

So far the journalistic gift has apparently been bestowed on a very limited number of nurses in this country, and the Editor feels bound to congratulate herself that four of the most effective pens will, upon occasions, work in the interest of the policy which she has so much at heart. She has also to thank many old contributors for their cordial expression of opinion that the Journal has been invaluable to the best interests of the nursing profession all over the world, and for their promise to give her in the future whatever help lies in their power.

It is hardly credible that at the Royal Free Hospital, which claims to rank as one of the principal Metropolitan Training-Schools for Nurses, there are still no wardmaids. With the large

amount of scientific nursing which has to be accomplished by probationers and nurses at the present day, it is most unfair both to them and to the patients that they should have to combine the rôle of sick nurse and wardmaid. Although the excuse may be made that the rough daily cleaning is performed by scrubbers, the daily influx of these outside workers, from maybe the purlieus of the district, has long been recognised as exceedingly dangerous to the antiseptic condition of hospital wards.

Now that a new Matron has been appointed, we hope that the Committee of the Royal Free Hospital will make a searching investigation into the prevailing system of organisation, both in relation to the nursing and domestic departments with the determination of inaugurating an up-to-date system.

We commend the point to the attention of the King's Fund. At present the inspectors appointed by the Fund are medical practitioners and laymen. Had they as co-inspector a practical woman trained as a nurse and experienced in domestic management, the unsatisfactory domestic omission at the Royal Free Hospital would, no doubt, have been long ago reported and rectified.

Some somewhat highly-coloured statements which have been made in a contemporary as to the unnecessary exposure of women patients in hospitals, have caused considerable comment. The women who entered our hospitals as nurses a quarter of a century ago know that there was much that called for remedy in this respect at that time. It was not a thing to be spoken about, but upon which action was taken, and was just one of those points upon which the influence of women of refinement has been so potent for good. We believe that now every effort is made to respect the modesty of women patients in our hospitals. Should any isolated instance occur to the contrary, it would speedily receive censure if reported to the proper authorities.

It is reported on good authority that, as the outcome of the negotiations now proceeding, the existing organisations for carrying on Red Cross work will be formed into one society. The final arrangements for the union will not be completed until the King returns from his tour in the Mediterranean. Important results are expected to follow the proposed amalgamation. Several details of the scheme have yet to be settled, but the chief object which is aimed at is to organise on a broad basis in time of peace the Red Cross work that will be called for in time of war. The two principal existing organisations are the Central Red Cross Council, on which a number of institutions such as the St. Andrew's Society of Scotland and nursing bodies are repre-

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