

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



How small a place science has made the world can be realised when one learns from colonial letters of the keeping of Christmas Day in hospitals. Day dawning to the sound of sweet-voiced nurses singing carols, cards and gifts for every patient, flowers and plants in hall and wards, good cheer and kindness everywhere — doctors, matrons, nurses—all combining to make the patients have a real good time. From South-Africa, Canada, and the isles of the sea, come to us letters telling the same old story of a happy Christmas once more spent and passed.

True philanthropists are rare in these days of *quid pro quo*, and the death of Mr. F. D. Mocatta will mean the loss of a genuine and most generous friend to numberless charities. With the warmest heart and the most open hand, he gave away quarterly every penny he possessed, and with a modesty most rare. He was well known to many nurses, by whom he will be sincerely deplored.

The troubles of Superintendent Nurses seem never-ending, and, unfortunately, Guardians do not seem to realise that a Superintendent who maintains good order and discipline is an official who should be treasured. More often, at the instance of some dissatisfied and unruly nurse, who apparently can always find one or more Guardians to listen to her complaints, the life of the conscientious official is made a burden to her. The Superintendent Nurse at the Plymouth Union Infirmary, Miss Holiday, who has proved herself a highly capable and efficient nurse during her four years of office, recently received a request from the Guardians to send in her resignation by a given date. The resignation was not sent in, and Boards of Guardians have, of course, no power to dismiss a Superintendent Nurse. Miss Holliday, however, wrote to the Board expressing her regret at receiving such a communication. She was not aware that there was the slightest complaint against her, either by the Board or the medical officer. On the contrary, the Guardians had expressed entire satisfaction with her work. Such a resolution might do her great harm professionally; she therefore asked to be furnished with the grounds on which the Guardians had founded their resolution, so that she might have

an opportunity of replying to it in detail. At a later meeting a lengthy resolution was forwarded to Miss Holliday, the sole grievance being apparently that many nurses had resigned during her term of office. Unless Miss Holliday resigns, the next step will probably be a Local Government Board Enquiry.

At Chester-le-Street also a resolution that the Superintendent Nurse should be called upon to resign was eventually withdrawn in favour of one that she should be "reprimanded, cautioned as to her future conduct, and given another chance." This also because the subordinate nurses complained of her. Who in these days would be a Superintendent Nurse? It is a thankless position indeed for any woman with a sense of responsibility.

A difficulty has presented itself to the Lewes and Newhaven Board of Guardians in regard to their nurses. The Lewes Board, at their last meeting, received the resignation of one of their nurses, and the Newhaven Board also received one at their meeting yesterday. In each case the officer desired to leave on a date specified—a month from the date of the notice, but the question arose before each Board as to whether the notice dated from the day it was received by the Clerk or the day it came before the Board. Several members suggested that it took effect from the date it was received by the Clerk, he being the direct representative of the Board when it was not sitting. The other argument used was that the notice took effect from the day it came before the Board meeting, the Clerk being only a paid official of the Board. In each case the latter suggestion found greater support, and it was decided to adopt it as the rule for the future. Thus the difficulty will probably be overcome.

Lady Dudley, accompanied by members of the house party, recently motored from Rockingham on a visit to the district nurse connected with her nursing scheme. The streets convenient to the nurses' rooms were neatly decorated, and several business establishments exhibited flags. She accompanied the nurse on a round of visits to sick persons under her charge, bearing a generous souvenir of the occasion.

On the return of the party to the nurses' rooms a great crowd was in waiting to greet her. On taking her seat in the motor Lady Dudley said before leaving Roscommon she wished to thank the warm-hearted people for the kind reception they had accorded her. She also wished to give public expression to the obligations she was under to the local nursing committee for the valuable assistance they had given her in the carrying out of the nursing scheme in Roscommon. Indeed, all the arrangements in connection with the nurses there were so admirably looked after, that very little of the work remained

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