

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 new Nurses' Home at the London Hospital is practically completed, and will be ready for occupation next month. It contains accommodation for 260 nurses. During the past quarter the hospital has received nearly £6,000 in legacies, and splendid gifts, which include £5,000 from Mr. Bowden through Mr. Edgar Speyer, Anonymous £1,000, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan £500, and Sir Alfred Harmsworth, £100. There is no doubt that Mr. Sydney Holland is a sort of pied piper in hospital finance; he plays on the heartstrings, and calls forth a marvellous following of generous givers. His reconstructive policy at the London Hospital has proved as discriminating as it was daring.

There is no doubt that caring for the very poor sick is far more congenial to the majority of nurses than attending to those in better circumstances. The reason of this is not far to seek. Are not the poor the most patient, grateful, and gracious of patients? Our experience confirms this view. Twenty-five years ago we made friends with a sick girl in the London Hospital, dragged up in the purlieu of "Flowerdean" Street; quite recently we heard from her, "feeling sure as you will be glad to hear as I is alive and well, and living at Barking, quite strong, as might have been in my coffin all these years, but for the kind treatment in Charlotte Ward!" Imagine the quality of gratitude that can stand the test of a quarter of a century's time, and emanating from "Flowerdean" Street, a hot-bed of crime, swept away, we may hope, years ago.

That's for gratitude, and now a word for good manners. Finding ourselves in a 'bus going north on a hospital visit intent, we had for companions only two very poorly clad women. At one stopping place a bold and bright-faced flower-girl boarded the 'bus and offered bunches of lovely lilies at a very low price. We bought two, much to her delight, and offered them to our companions.

Now we commend to the "educated" classes the gracious manners of these members of the "masses." In spite of the bumping of the 'bus, they half rose to receive the flowers, and their thanks were couched in the politest of phrases.

"For me, oh! but I thank you kindly; ain't they just like wax (a very high compliment to

these exquisite flowers); my little gal, she will be that delighted. She's a cripple, pore thing, and she do so dote on flowers, its surprising. I'd rather take 'er these nor a pork chop. I shall tell 'er as a kind fairy as sent 'em."

And a little later at parting this lady made us the most profound of smiling bows, and remained nodding from the pavement till the 'bus again rumbled on its way. And all this pleasure, for is it not the keenest of pleasure to come across innate human goodness, for *sixpence*. This is the sort of spirit which makes nursing the poor body it inhabits the happiest and most satisfying of tasks.

A *résumé* of the progress of nursing politics in this country since 1887, when the British Nurses' Association was founded by a few Matrons in the hope of organising the nursing profession for the good of the community, appears in the editorial columns of this month's *American Journal of Nursing*, and shows a masterly grip of the whole question. We doubt if any one on this side could have laid the matter out so truly and tersely.

Compare this article with the garbled and quite untrue statement made by Dr. Outterson Wood, in an address to the Medico-Psychological Society, on the history of the Registration question and the R.B.N.A., a statement which we intend to refer to again at an early date. We once again congratulate the nursing world at large in possessing professional organs of their own, where statements made in ignorance (if not in *malice prepense*) can be immediately refuted.

The fifteenth annual report of the Jarrow Nursing Association has just been issued. The Committee thank the subscribers for their generous support during the year. The past winter was an exceptionally trying one to the labouring classes, work being scarce, and the wages earned often insufficient to provide suitable food and clothing. Nurse McCleary, however, had been able, with the aid of sick-room appliances at the disposal of the Committee, to relieve very much the suffering of patients. During the year she paid 2,013 visits, many serious cases having passed through her hands. Perhaps in no form of nursing is the good of the work which has been done, and the hardship which would result from leaving it undone, so apparent as in district nursing.

We are not surprised that the nurses at the Workhouse Infirmary, Hull, object to be compelled to pass through the lodge gates of the workhouse, and to be registered in and out by an inmate, instead of being allowed to enter and leave their Home by its front door. In every hospital of any size it is, of course, essential that a record of the nurses' comings and goings should be kept by someone, and the duty is usually entrusted to the hall

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)