

## 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\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 Registered Nurses' At Home was a pleasant gathering, and by the unanimous wish of those present is to be repeated next month. Private nurses are very busy just now, so that many members who had hoped to attend were prevented by duty from so doing, but those who came—and amongst them were several new members—greatly enjoyed meeting their colleagues, and all were very merry. Sister Cartwright's tea was, as usual, temptingly displayed, and the pretty green rooms never looked more gay, decorated, as they were, with a wealth of lovely chrysanthemums. These gatherings should increase a sense of the true meaning of co-operation amongst the members of the R.N.S.

At a meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association held in Dublin, at which Mrs. Manning presided, Dr. Kirkpatrick, physician to Steevens' Hospital, gave an interesting lecture on the "History of Vaccination," which was illustrated by fine lantern slides. The lecturer first touched on the superstitions regarding small-pox and some old world treatments, and then passed on to the discovery of treatment by inoculation, and the wonderful preventive effects of the present system of vaccination.

A few years ago the fees paid by probationers at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, brought in £800 a year. But in 1900 the supply was so small that the fee was reduced to one-half, or £30, in the hope of increasing the supply. This hope has proved fallacious, and the Committee have come to the conclusion that unless the fees are abolished no probationers will be forthcoming at all. So this has been done.

There are in England 77 provincial hospitals with over 100 beds each, of which Addenbrooke's is one. Out of these 77 there are only 23 which charge premiums at all, and of these 23, seven only charge premiums of £5 or under. So that without co-operation amongst

the hospitals, and the adoption of a fixed fee, paying probationers are unattainable. What a change is here. Twenty-five years ago we paid a guinea a week gaily for the proud privilege of working far harder than the paid staff works to-day, and we considered ourselves injured if we were not permitted to cram fourteen hours' work a day into a seven days' week. The more the merrier was the motto in those far-off "barbaric" times.

The nursing arrangements at the Royal Naval Hospital at Haslar have been somewhat severely criticised in *Truth*. Haslar is no worse than other naval hospitals—the system of nursing is quite out of date in the Navy—and requires carefully reforming by the Admiralty. In the year 1900 a deputation of the Matrons' Council personally presented a Memorandum to that Department on the changes requisite to provide efficient care for our sick sailors; chief amongst them was the suggestion that a Nursing Department, affiliated to the Medical Department at the Admiralty, superintended by a fully trained nurse, should be established. Since which time nothing has been done. We believe the Head Sister at Haslar has expressed satisfaction with the present condition of affairs. All the same, sooner or later, the Naval Nursing Service must be overhauled and brought up to date, and the sooner the better.

"Matrons' Pound Day," held at the Dover Hospital has been a great success this year. The sum of £68 19s. 6d. was received in coin of the realm, and over 3,000 pounds of goods were brought to the hospital during the day.

The report of the Machynlleth Nursing Association is of a very hopeful nature, and the Committee are sanguine that the work will never suffer for want of sympathy and help; they also hope that in time a trained nurse will be stationed in the remote mountainous districts, where much suffering could be saved. Of Nurse Price it is written that, as a nurse, she was all they desired, and the tribute paid to her when she left the district of Cefn, Ruabon, was "that she never entered a home without leaving it better than she found it," high praise indeed.

A desperate suicide has occurred in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. A young man named Donald, who was being treated for nerve trouble, while lying in bed and during the course of the religious service in the ward, stabbed him-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)