

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\* \* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



Camp, Aldershot.

Miss F. E. Addams-Williams has left England for South Africa to take up the duties there of Principal Matron in South Africa in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Miss Addams-Williams received her training at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and has had charge of the Connaught Hospital, North

Why is it that the slur can so frequently be cast upon present-day nursing that a patient has been burnt with hot water bottles? Indeed a correspondent recently writing to us, and describing the case of an injury to a patient during an operation from this cause briefly described it as "twentieth century nursing."

There is no reason and no excuse for ever burning a patient by this means. Bottles leak, blankets get displaced, true; but it is the duty of a nurse to be sure that a bottle does not leak before she applies it to a patient, and that the cork is firmly screwed; also the protection afforded by blankets should never be relied upon. A hot-water bottle or bag must invariably be enclosed in a flannel cover, and any neglect of this rule should be regarded as a serious offence on the part of a nurse, whether any consequences ensue in that particular instance or not.

The cases recorded of patients burned by bottles while on the operating table suggests the supposition that the bottles are needed in an emergency and applied hurriedly. But what is training worth if it does not lead a nurse to foresee and provide against emergencies. Hot bottles should always be obtainable on the shortest notice when an operation is in progress. Then there is no need for hurry and flurry, always signs of indifferent nursing.

A movement is on foot to establish a nursing home for inebriates of the working classes in the neighbourhood of Ham Common, near Richmond, and a drawing-room meeting was

recently held by permission of Lady Sudeley at Ormeley Lodge, Ham Common, near Richmond, in furtherance of this object.

The value of good nursing is illustrated in the Southborough case, to which we referred last week. Miss Searle, a patient whose father refused to pay for her maintenance and attendance on the ground that his daughter was neglected while in the Urban District Hospital, said, in giving her evidence at the Tunbridge Wells County Court, that she did not have proper attention or nourishment. The nurse never even took the temperature, saying on one occasion, "Oh, I forgot to take the temperature, so I must put down something." The nurse often left without giving her needful attention as to gargling and spraying a bad throat. The witness stated that she was too ill to make complaints to her father. When Nurse Bunn, of the Dover Nurses' Institute, came the attention was different, and she soon felt better.

The great importance of conscientiousness on the part of a nurse is evident. Of what use is a temperature chart when a woman who forgets to take a temperature "puts down something." The statement of the patient also that she was too ill to complain, but that when she received adequate attention she soon felt better, is testimony both to the value of good nursing, and to the duty of the State to provide adequate safeguards as to the efficiency of nurses to whose care patients "too ill to complain" are frequently entrusted.

At the recent opening of the new Asylum for the City of York the Dean of York gave some interesting reminiscences of the inhuman treatment of lunatics in days gone by, and the prominent part which had been played in the introduction of humane methods of treatment by Dr. Tuke, of the Friends' Retreat, at York, and Dr. Willis, the lunacy specialist who attended George III. The Dean related that on one occasion his father when out hunting called at a farm to stable his horse and found a man badly clothed and in a wild state chained in a stall in the stable, the farmer explaining that the man was his brother who was a lunatic, and that this was the best means of taking care of him. Dr. Purey Cust also mentioned that his sister fifty years ago founded a home in London for nervous and mental complaints, which she still controlled though living in Ireland. She had made £5,000 by this home, and had handed the money over to the Charity Commissioners to be invested for the benefit of old and disabled attendants on lunatics.

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