

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* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 War Office buildings in Whitehall, now an imposing structure, will be ready for occupation in May next, and the whole department is to be installed there by Midsummer Day. It was intended to make the new building the permanent headquarters both of the Military and Civil Departments of the War Office, but more room is even now likely to be required. However, it is expected that the Army Medical Service Advisory Board and the Nursing Board will take up their headquarters at Whitehall, a situation which will be both convenient and, we hope, adequate as the home of this important Service.

The glass cubicles which are to be adopted at the South Western Hospital, Stockwell, providing that the sanction of the Local Government Board is obtained, are to be tried first in the observation wards, into which cases are received in which the diagnosis is not yet certain, or very mild cases of scarlet fever in which it is proved that the power of infection is slight. It is believed that if such cases are divided by glass screens, and that nurses are employed who are thoroughly to be trusted as regards disinfection, wearing special wrappers, that the number of nurses employed can be lessened, while accommodation can be saved and therefore expense lessened. Dr. Foord Caiger, the Medical Superintendent at the South Western Hospital, explains that only the most trustworthy nurses will be placed on this duty, because the plan is based on aseptic principles and would break down with any want of care in minute details on the part of the nurse. The ward in which the experiment is to be tried will open on to a verandah on which the patients in turn, when allowed, will take an airing.

Dr. Caiger, who is one of the Board's most keen and progressive Superintendents, and whose long experience entitles him to rank as an authority on infectious diseases, has come to the conclusion that the better a nurse cares or a case of enteric fever the more likely she

is to contract the disease. It used to be considered, he says, that if a nurse contracted typhoid, it was due to some carelessness on her own part, and a more cruel suggestion could not be made. As a rule, if one nurse is attacked by typhoid several others are, and Dr. Caiger considers that the reason is more likely to be an unusually virulent type of typhoid, and some method of infection which is not yet clearly understood. This is a very comforting theory for those nurses who, in spite of adopting every known precaution, have yet contracted the disease.

The decision of the Hospital Sunday Fund to regard the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, the London Biblewomen and Nurses' Mission, and the North London Association for the Poor, Holloway Road, as eligible for grants from the Fund has aroused considerable interest in the work of these societies. The work of Queen's Nurses is known and valued throughout the United Kingdom, in the metropolis, and other busy and populous cities, as well as in the Scotch Highlands, and in lonely districts of the West of Ireland.

The London Branch of the London Biblewomen and Nurses' Mission, 2, Adelphi Terrace, Strand, W.C., was founded in 1868 to supplement the work of the Biblewomen belonging to the society founded by the late Mrs. Ranyard in 1857 to visit the poorest and most neglected quarters of London. The two branches have always been distinct. The probationers accepted for training are sent first to a general hospital, and, subsequently, to a lying-in hospital to obtain a monthly nursing certificate. They then receive instruction in the details of district nursing. Suitable nurses who have received a three-years' training are also accepted by the society. At present there are 63 nurses on the staff, many of whom are qualified as midwives, but no members of the society practice midwifery, though the nursing of maternity cases forms part of its work. Sir Thomas Barlow, Dr. Amand Routh, and Dr. Eden have all testified warmly to the value of the work of these district nurses.

In connection with the outdoor maternity work at Charing Cross Hospital, Dr. Routh states that in spite of all that could be done, owing to the lack of trained nurses the mortality from puerperal fever alone was fifteen per thousand, not counting the infant deaths. Now a case is hardly ever lost, and this is entirely due to the fact that skilled nurses are employed. He also states that the students derive great advantages

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