

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 All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Out of the money received for admission to the State apartments at Windsor Castle His Majesty the King has sent a donation of £30 to the Slough Nursing Fund, which provides trained nurses to visit the sick poor in their own homes.

The Poor Law Commission is now sitting at the Foreign Office. We have not heard of any Matrons holding office under the Poor Law coming forward to offer evidence on nursing and analogous questions. But we hope some evidence is being prepared which will help the Commission to come to just conclusions on this special department—the nursing of the sick poor in workhouses and infirmaries. Now is the time to make suggestions for its improvement.

The North London Nursing Association for the Poor, which is one of the three District Nursing Associations to receive a grant from the Hospital Sunday Fund, was opened in 1877, with accommodation for a Superintendent and four nurses as the first branch of the Metropolitan and National Nursing Association, its foundation principles being that the nurses should be educated gentlewomen with the fullest hospital training then obtainable, supplemented by special theoretical and practical work in connection with District Nursing at the Central Home in Bloomsbury Square. In 1881 the parent Association was unable to continue to support its branches, and the Northern Home passed into the hands of a local committee, and though its financial difficulties have been great, it has continued the good work ever since. Nurses, to be eligible to work on the staff, now increased to twelve workers besides the Lady Superintendent, must be educated gentlewomen who have completed at least three years' training in a recognised training school. The salaries of the nurses on the staff begin at £35 for the first year, are £40 in the second year, and increase annually until they reach £50, a scale of payment which compares favourably with that of most district nursing societies. Trained super-

vision is regarded by Miss K. S. Meyer, the Superintendent, and the Committee as a necessary feature of district nursing.

The Association also undertakes the nursing of a country district in Surrey, the expense of its working being provided. This work has proved a great help to the Home, as many a tired nurse recovers freshness after a few months spent in country work.

The responsibility of our professional journals is indeed far-reaching, and the influence they have had in initiating reforms and in bringing about advances in nursing and hospital progress is inestimable, and only realised by those who are observing the public currents of thought.

The Registration movement started eighteen years ago in this Journal has inspired the professional press in many lands; in the States it is written, "It is hardly possible to estimate the importance of our advantage in having the *American Journal of Nursing* as an engine and organ of progress in the work of defining and building up standards. What it is to us we can realise, perhaps, by imagining ourselves in Russia, where men and women are willing to die to secure the freedom of the press."

"The Twentieth Century Matron," Miss Isla Stewart's paper, which is to be translated into German, has been quoted from this Journal in full in the American medical Press. One of the leading papers, writing under the heading of "Guide, Philosopher, and Friend," says of it:—"While addressed primarily to Matrons, it may be read and pondered over by all nurses, indeed, by everybody who has any serious work to do. We heartily commend both the spirit and the letter of this admirable address." It is also warmly praised in the nursing Press.

Dr. Eleanor Chesunt, who met a sad death at the hands of the mob at Lien Chow, China, was busy translating Mrs. Robb's text-book on nursing for the use of her pupil Chinese nurses, who had begun to study the first part whilst she was engaged in translating the end. The difficulty of training nurses in China may be inferred from the fact that one of these women could not read and was learning the Chinese characters from the labels on the medicine bottles as a beginning.

The eighth annual report for the year ending October last of the Bedford Nursing Division and Sick Diet Guild has just been issued, and shows that invalid appliances to the number of eighty-four have been lent to sixty-nine patients.

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