

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales paid a visit to the Dufferin Hospital at Calcutta last week, and expressed herself deeply interested in the work of bringing medical aid to the women of India.

The Christmas Entertainments held in the beautiful Great Hall at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, were very lively gatherings. Everyone looked gay and happy, and the acting of Mr. Stephen Townesend in "David Garrick" was a very fine performance.

Christmas Trees have during the past week given the greatest delight to sick children in the children's hospitals and wards, and the fun has had a wonderful effect upon their general health. Happiness is the very best antidote to sickness that we know.

A movement which was suggested some little time ago by Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses is now being actively supported by the council of that association, for endeavouring to get the Local Government Board and the Board of Education jointly to sanction payment by the local education authorities for the services of Queen's Nurses to inspect the children attending the elementary schools.

Some education authorities, like the London County Council, engage their own nurses, but this arrangement is more expensive than the employment of Queen's Nurses, and is probably less efficient, because, as the council of the institute point out, school nursing, if pursued exclusively, is of necessity monotonous, and highly-trained nurses will not be likely to undertake it solely for more than a very limited period. The special training and status of the Queen's Nurses, on the other hand, render them particularly suitable for the work, they are accustomed to deal with the poor in their own homes, and those children who require attention can be visited in them, after they have

been inspected at school, in the ordinary routine of the district work.

We understand that the Metropolitan Asylums Board has under consideration the introduction of glass cubicles into its infectious hospitals, by means of which the patients can be isolated from one another. The plan should act as a preventive to the cross infection, which, in spite of all care, has never been stamped out of these hospitals.

Amongst the charities we would particularly draw attention to as being worthy of every support is the Royal Maternity Charity of London, which, with an able staff of surgeons and nurse midwives, attends poor married women in their own homes all over London, and provides them with medicines gratuitously.

Mrs. MacNicol, Hon. Secretary of the Institute for Massage by the Blind, 74, Lancaster Gate, Hyde Park, appeals to the public to give a fair share of the employment of massage, or medical rubbing, and Nauheim treatment to the educated and intelligent blind. She states that their thorough efficiency and natural ability for this work is now proved beyond all doubt.

It is interesting to note the practical advice given in *Asylum News* to "Asylum Voters." They are invited, quite rightly, to put pressure on Parliamentary Candidates at the pending Election to impress upon them the importance of obtaining for those engaged in public asylum service, adequate superannuation allowances, such as are granted to others employed in the Civil Service of the country.

Now there are an equal number of women nurses in asylums who are not enfranchised, and it is significant that these workers are not appealed to for help, presumably because, not having votes, they are unable to "put pressure" upon the country's legislators. This is a lesson women workers might well take to heart.

We hear that those who spent the Christmas holiday at Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest, 12, Sussex Square, Brighton, had a very happy time, and Mrs. Bridges, the Matron, whose kind forethought had so greatly contributed to the success was asked to convey to absent friends of the Home the "best thanks of those present for the happiest day possible, and to wish them many Happy New Years."

Dr. Josiah Oldfield in the *Westminster Review* deals with the "Nurse of the Future"

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