

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**** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



We are glad to learn that St. Thomas' Hospital has decided to increase the number of beds set apart for paying patients. This is a much needed branch of hospital work in which St. Thomas' has always been in the forefront. It is a boon to that large class of patients who, while unable to afford the entire cost of an illness at home, or to pay the full fees of a private nursing home, are yet able to contribute to the expense, and who shrink, from a laudable feeling of independence, from admission to the free wards of a hospital supported by charitable contributions. When the new Gassiot Nurses' Home is completed no less than 185 nurses will be accommodated in the Hospital.

An important suggestion was made by the Coroner at an inquest on a patient at Charing Cross Hospital who died under chloroform at an operation. Two operations for goitre had been performed with the consent of the patient's mother. In connection with the third, which unfortunately proved fatal, the mother said that if she had been asked she would not have consented, as she did not consider her daughter was in a fit state to take chloroform. Dr. Denny said he understood that the parents had been informed of the third operation by the Ward Sister.

No doubt a Sister from her close and sympathetic relations with the relatives of patients is able to explain simply to them the need for operations and to obtain their consent. But the arrangements for an operation should not be dependent upon a conversation between a Sister and a patient's relation, with the result, as in the present instance, that responsibility for any contretemps which may subsequently arise is placed upon her. The thing should be done in a business-like manner and as the Coroner pointed out the decision of parents in such cases should be recorded in writing. Hospitals might usefully design a

form to be filled in and signed by the patient's relations.

A Committee of the whole District Council at Brentford have reported that in connection with the recent charges brought against the Isolation Hospital by Mr. F. C. Schubert, with reference to the treatment of his children, whilst patients in the Hospital, they have discharged two nurses and paid them a month's wages in lieu of notice. They have appointed a temporary Superintendent and taken steps to appoint a properly certificated fever nurse as Matron, and also an Assistant Nurse. We hope that the complaint of Mrs. Schubert that there were not enough nurses to do the work has received due consideration, and that efficient nursing will be provided during the night. Further that the Matron appointed will not only be a certificated fever nurse but will also have a certificate of general training, and experience in the nursing of children.

We notice that the official organ of the Midwives' Institute finds the appreciation of State registrationists of the resolution passed by the British Medical Association in favour of State Registration "amusing," as "their attitude toward the medical profession, as evidenced at some recent R.B.N.A. meetings could scarcely be described as cordially receptive of their assistance on the Administrative Council of that unhappy Association."

It seems impossible for lay edited nursing papers to grasp the professional standpoint. We have given up expecting it. We may point out, for their enlightenment, that the nursing profession at large does not recognise the discredited medical clique which governs the Royal British Nurses' Association as in any way representative of the honourable profession of medicine. For the liberal statesmanlike attitude adopted by Sir Victor Horsley, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Dr. Langley Browne, and others, towards the Registration question, and for their invaluable help, nurses have always been most grateful, and are naturally gratified that the great body of medical practitioners throughout the country have conclusively shown themselves in accordance with their views.

Having done much to ruin the R.B.N.A., Sir Henry Burdett's organ is now attempting to sow dissension amongst the Nurses' Leagues. Trained Nurses however have learnt their lesson, and these societies will no doubt continue to think and act for themselves in the future as they have done hitherto. Organisation and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)