

## 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**\*\*** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 true inwardness of the agitation against the modern and efficient system of nursing in army hospitals, may be summed up in a few words. By an Army Order of 1904 female nurses rank in authority next to officers of the R.A.M.C. and above the warrant officers and N.C.O.s. This is unpleasing to both sections as under the old disorderly system the Nursing Sisters were neither "fish, fowl, nor good red herring," and could not enforce either discipline or efficiency. Now status and authority have been granted to them, they demand both. Hence these tears.

Surgeon-General Evatt, late A.M.S. wants to know why a list of the Army Nursing Service Reserve is omitted from the Army List. "Where are our missing Sisters?" he asks the *B.M.J.* He wants to see the Reserve placed immediately after the regular Sisters, exactly as the Militia and Volunteer battalions follow the regular county battalions.

Surgeon-General Evatt proposed as far back as 1885 the organisation of an efficient Volunteer Nurse Corps—it has not yet been accomplished. To have a satisfactory volunteer corps of nurses prepared in time of peace, for immediate use in time of war, this auxiliary force should be organised by the Nursing Board at the War Office, and should not be governed by persons who are not under Government control. The late South African War should have taught us the lesson that the care of our sick soldiers is a little too sacred for the pastime of Society women.

Miss E. Edith Fowler and Miss M. E. Rowell, members of the Registered Nurses Society, have taken a house in Beaumont Street, W., and intend to open it in about a month's time as a Home Hospital, fitted with modern appliances and every comfort.

Miss Annesley Kenealy, had one of her brilliant

and suggestive articles in Monday's *Tribune* on "Municipal Mothering" and how to counteract infant mortality. She asks: "Why shouldn't Mothering be included among the School subjects for girls? And isn't it time a Chair of Infantology were established in every girls' college and high school throughout Great Britain? The baby of to-day is notoriously a physical failure. What of the baby of to-morrow if no steps be taken to instruct the rising generation of girls in motherhood?"

Miss Kenealy considers the knowledge of the feeding bottle and its contents of greater importance than a smattering of science:—

"What does it profit a luckless baby if his mother possess a B.A. degree, or has graduated with honours in some abstruse science, if the contents of his feeding bottle are not calculated to nourish his body, feed his brain, and turn out a citizen of stamina? Health and happiness, muscle and morality, are apt to go hand in hand. And it is the mother alone who can add these priceless gifts to a nation's resources. Modern babies suffer from brain-fag and nervous breakdown. Such things could hardly be were girls taught the science and practice of motherhood. . . . Every girl is a potential mother, but education gives her no qualification for her position."

Miss Kenealy's remedy for widespread tendency to national physical deterioration and decreased vitality in the young is less artificial feeding, a fresh wholesome milk supply put within the reach of the very poor, and she would make the adulteration of milk a criminal offence.

"Acts of Parliament," she says, "may stimulate a sense of parent-hood, but mothers must necessarily remain the vital factors in evolving a fine, healthy, sturdy race. For this reason municipal maternity must not relieve the individual mother of her responsibility for a debilitated and degenerate offspring. It would be a distinct lowering of all womanly ideals were the State—as some suggest—to institute gigantic incubators, where infants might be brought up by paid officials. Hasn't Mr. Rockefeller endowed something of this sort in the United States? The smart woman of the period, who finds many imitators in all classes of life, insists on 'greater freedom and less responsibility.' She has translated herself from the sphere of motherhood, and in so doing has become restless and discontented. It's a natural instinct in a woman to carry something in her arms. Twentieth century

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