

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^{} *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



In reply to several correspondents who have made enquiries as to why the Matron-in-Chief is not included in the newly appointed Advisory Board of the War Office, as she was on the former Advisory Board, we may state that the object of the present organisation is, we believe, to make the Director-General responsible for the efficiency of both the Medical and Nursing Services, with the assistance and advice of the Advisory Board on medical and sanitary matters, and of the Nursing Board of Q.A.I.M.N.S. on nursing matters. Thus, for the first time the Nursing Board will tender its advice directly to the Director-General, and, so far, this is good. At the same time, it is natural that this official should consult with the Advisory Board on matters of importance connected with both Services.

The Board is a very distinguished one from the scientific point of view, but scientists have not always a knowledge of practical details and the presence of an expert nurse on the Board would, we think, be valuable. It will be remembered that the new Military Hospital at Millbank was built without any provision for the nursing staff, a defect which would have been at once apparent to any trained nurse. It would seem also from an official communication which we have received since the establishment of the new Advisory Board that the decision as to which hospitals shall be recognised as nurse-training schools still rests with it, but we do not think that as at present composed it has the practical knowledge of nursing matters to enable it to form an expert opinion on this important point.

Personally, we regret the removal of the Matron-in-Chief from its counsels. She has her seat on the Nursing Board as representing the department which she serves, and similarly we have always considered the arrangement that she represented it also on the Advisory Board a very desirable and just one.

We are glad to learn that the Countess of Minto's Indian Nursing Association is receiving considerable support, and recently shared in the benefits of a most successful fête at Calcutta, which was opened by the Earl of Minto in aid of the local hospitals and the Calcutta scheme, as well as the Indian Nursing Association. On the first afternoon, the great lucky bag alone took £3,000, what wonder then that the fête, which has many other attractions, has been a huge success.

Miss Mary Marks, who was trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, and now holds the position of Teacher of Massage there, read an interesting paper on "Hospital Nursing" at the City Temple a short time since, at the "Young Women's Conference," giving an account of the work of Miss Nightingale, the founder of her training school, and a description of the training and routine there.

Of the children's ward she said "all things bright and beautiful have been gathered to make the children's ward like fairyland . . . To anyone who feels pessimistic, and that the world is all bad, I would advise a visit to Seymour Ward, St. Thomas' Hospital on Sunday afternoon, to be followed by an evening service at the City Temple. At the former he may see the busy Marthas, tending their Master with anxious care, in His sick, His poor, His little ones. In the latter he may sit with Mary at the Master's feet, and drink of the very river of the water of life, which He is pouring out so abundantly to thirsty souls in the sacred ministry of this blessed and holy place."

The following curious letter has been received by the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen Square, Bloomsbury:—

TO THE HEAD DOCTOR:

SIR,—I hope I am not taking too great a liberty. I was in the hospital many years' ago, and had an operation on the brain after they had said there was no cure for me. I am not sure of the year, but think it was in 1886, from a Bible which was presented to me. My intellects having grown, have been in the world fourteen years earning my own living. All whom I tell of my childhood think I ought to come to the hospital and see it, and hear why I know nothing of my life till I was seventeen years of age, when, very dimly, my intellects and knowledge grew by degrees, and I learned all things by degrees, as a child would, after seventeen years of age. I am now thirty-four, and my lady with whom I now live thinks I ought to see the doctor who did something to my brain that he might have credit.

If I am allowed to come to the hospital I shall be

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)