

Nursing Echoes.



Dr. Theodore Williams, M.V.O., F.R.C.P., Consulting Physician to the Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, in a lecture on the Infection of Consumption, published in the *British Medical Journal*, says, "It is impossible to give complete statistics of the nurses and servants on account of their short periods of service and the frequent changes. There are, however, a number of nurses, and especially of sisters, who have been in the hospital for many years, some twenty-five, some twenty years, and the occurrence of infection of phthisis among them is almost unknown, but the newcomers do not remain long and are difficult to trace.

"There have been 57 resident porters and 79 non-resident since 1882, and of this number 6 have become affected with consumption and 3 have died. Three porters are told off to assist in the sterilization of the linen and in the destruction of the sputum, and are called sterilizing porters, and the three deaths include two of these. The other porters are employed in various occupations, but whether resident or non-resident, they all have to go into the wards from time to time to carry food, medicines, parcels, and at times patients. One porter acts as store-keeper, and of these store-keepers two in succession have been attacked with consumption, and one died. The present store-keeper has been affected, but has recovered and has returned to duty."

Dr. Williams says that "the figures do not testify to much danger of infection to those who have the care of consumptives, but show that with proper precautions such service is quite safe. At the same time occurrence of tuberculosis among the porters, especially among those who handle the sputum, demonstrates where the true danger lies, and inculcates the importance of dealing effectually with this element of danger."

The precautions observed, and methods of personal disinfection practised by the porters, and their comparison with those enforced in the case of the nurses is a point which it is important to keep in view.

The Council of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund for Disabled Nurses are prepared to receive applications for annuities from

eligible nurses. Candidates must have had three years' training and seven years' subsequent nursing, must be over 40 years of age, and more or less incapacitated. Their total income must not exceed 8s. a week. The list will be closed on October 18th, after which applications will be carefully considered, and a certain number "approved." Annuities will be granted to these as vacancies occur, but immediate grants must not be expected. Canvassing in any form will disqualify the applicant. Forms of application and rules can be obtained, on a written request, from Dr. Ogier Ward, 73, Cheapside, E.C. As it is probable that nurses with a weekly income of under 8s. a week cannot afford to take in a nursing journal, we hope that anyone who reads this notice and knows a nurse who would be eligible for this annuity, will post a copy of the Journal to her.

The Royal Infirmary, Truro, of which Miss Bessie Chaff is Matron, is one of the Hospitals which admits paying patients to private wards. The sum charged is thirty shillings a week or any portion of a week, but this does not include the expense of a special nurse, dressings, drugs, medical and surgical appliances, special articles of diet, and stimulants, or the professional fees of the hon. medical officer.

The Convalescent Home for men at Perranporth, which was founded and endowed by Mr. Passmore Edwards in connection with the Infirmary, is greatly appreciated, and the Committee express their implicit reliance on the Matron, Miss Rimington, who has been in charge of the Home from its opening, and who does everything in her power for the benefit and comfort of the patients.

The *Garde Malade Hospitalière* announces that a certain number of posts for military nurses will be open to competition during the present year. The examinations will probably be held at the end of September or the beginning of October. Candidates must be of French nationality, must produce certificates of birth, of training in nursing, and of physical fitness. The organisation of the Military Nursing Service will, our contemporary states, be modified and completed by the founding of new grades of employment. The regulations embodying these new provisions are now under the consideration of the Minister of War.

Miss Hibbard and the Cuban delegates to the International Congress of Nurses visited Manchester before leaving England, and consider the Royal Infirmary there the finest

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