

NURSING ECHOES.

In our advertising columns will be found details of the matronship of the Anglo-American Hospital at Cairo, which post will presently be vacant, and for which a new matron will be required to take office not later than the 1st of March, 1912. The salary is £150 a year. No doubt there will be keen competition for this excellent post.

The question of cottage nursing was touched upon at the meeting of United Irishwomen, held in Dublin last week. Mrs. Harold Lett, the President, said, "they had been attacked in the press for a nursing scheme which they were supposed to have evolved, but they had evolved no nursing scheme of any sort. They recognised the importance of nurses for the sick poor, and that there were very few parishes in the country in the position of being able to afford a fully qualified nurse. They all realised the high standard of nursing which the Irish nursing world wished to maintain, but there was another side to the question, and if the maintenance of this high standard meant that the poor, who could not afford a fully qualified nurse, were to have no one to give them a helping hand in time of sickness it would be infinitely more humane to follow some of the old Pagan customs and kill off the old and suffering."

The question at issue between the nursing profession and the United Irishwomen is not whether or no the poor shall have a helping hand in sickness, but that if the poor are provided with a helping hand it shall be a skilled one, as it would be for those who can afford to pay. The poor in rural districts do not pay for trained nursing, they cannot afford to do so, but if their wealthier neighbours organise schemes to provide them with nursing, it is their duty to see that it reaches the standard they themselves would employ. To offer to the sick poor the services of uneducated girls with a few months' so-called training, to dress such inefficient helpers up in full nursing uniform, and present them to the poor as "trained nurses," is a species of "help" less honest, if more humane, than the Pagan customs alluded to. The poorer and more ignorant the people, the more thorough the standard of nursing required.

Irish matrons could not do better than join the United Irishwomen Movement, and be ready with expert advice.

The Belfast Board of Guardians at their last week's meeting accepted the report of the committee recently appointed *re* the management of the Nurses' Home, which stated that the committee considered that the state of affairs existing at the Home did not warrant the Guardians in taking the drastic measures which were proposed in the Special Committee's report, and, with the object of preventing any misunderstanding arising in future, the committee recommended that Miss Howlett, lady superintendent of the infirmaries and Nurses' Home, be recognised as such, and that all matters which arise in connection with the Home, in which directions should be given, be referred to her by the Home officers, and that any causes for complaint be similarly reported immediately to her, who will then report to the workhouse master, in compliance with the regulations and nursing order. That a special committee, consisting of the lady guardians, be appointed by the Board for the purpose of visiting the Home periodically, with the lady superintendent, and report monthly to the Infirmary Committee.

Unless skilled and satisfactory subordinates are provided by the Guardians to help the Lady Superintendent to conduct her department, no doubt we shall hear more of the complaints made by the nurses which she has already reported to them.

Miss E. J. Hurlston, Sister-in-Charge of Muirfield House, Gullane, N.B., in connection with the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, is giving a lecture, on December 5th, on "The Formation of the Red Cross Society," with which she will include a short account of Nursing in the Middle Ages, and the modern movement for the organisation of nurses by the State. Miss Hurlston will illustrate her lecture by lantern slides.

It would appear that the supply of nurses in New Zealand is not sufficient for the demand, as in the *Imperial Colonist* a letter is reproduced from the Inspector of Hospitals at Wellington asking our Colonial Nursing Association to supply twelve fully trained nurses to take up work in the Dominion. The Department of Public Health are to provide free board and lodging and a waiting salary of £1 a week. The nurses are to go where sent, and to consent to an agreement for twelve months. Salaries from £60 to £100, with living expenses in the case of district, general, and midwifery work. Applicants must be of good physique and hold

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