

### NURSING ECHOES.

Nowadays, when a titled medical practitioner speaks of nursing and nurses, one expects him to do so with knowledge and sympathy, for no one has a better opportunity of becoming acquainted with the value of their services to the community and the medical profession, or of knowing the willingness with which those arduous services are rendered. Yet Sir Frederick Eve, a member of the visiting staff of the London Hospital, speaking at the opening of the new wing of the Essex County Nursing Association's Training Home at Leytonstone—an Association whose system dispenses with hospital training, but does not hesitate to send its helps to compete with thoroughly trained private nurses at full fees—depreciated the thoroughly trained in comparison with those who do not hesitate to undertake responsibility for which they are not sufficiently qualified.

In urging the needs of the labouring classes in rural districts, Sir Frederick stated that the highly trained and occasionally fastidious hospital nurse would not only be entirely out of her element but would be completely out of touch with the people themselves. The women of that Association were "women of the people." The highly starched ministering angel was out of place in the cottage home.

While the hospital nurse was educated in a palatial building with every modern convenience, and luxuriated in all the latest apparatus and accessories, the nurses of that Association gained their knowledge in the squalid tenements of Leyton and Walthamstow. They learned from the first to do with what was to hand, often little enough, for occasionally the only utensil to be found for washing the new baby was the frying pan.

We consider these remarks betray sad ignorance upon the part of Sir Frederick Eve of the value of skilled nursing to the sick, even if pleasing to the aristocratic patrons of semi-trained nurses for the poor, who for the moment composed his audience. The conscientious, efficiently trained nurse is as much at home in the cottage of the peasant as she is in the palace of the prince, and to deny this fact is as ungenerous as it is untrue.

Although medical men are "educated in palatial buildings, and luxuriate in all the latest apparatus and accessories" (including the devoted services of trained nurses), we do not find Sir Frederick Eve advocating the establishment of an order of medical practitioners, minus hospital training, "because the highly trained registered medical practitioner is

entirely out of his element, and completely out of touch with the people themselves." No. Quack is the term by which such impudent practitioners are described in medical parlance—and the quack nurse is not a whit less dangerous than her medical *confrère* when tampering with the health of the community.

In this connection we heard the following story last week:—In a country district a "village nurse" had been substituted for a "cottage nurse," and "sleeping with the family" prohibited. The new nurse was not sent for in a case of illness where poultices were required, and upon enquiry being made, the committee lady was told, "We can make our own poultices—what we wants Nuss for is to do the 'ousework"!

Trained nurses wishing to insure for a pension should not fail to make enquiries from the Secretary of the Trained Nurses Insurance Institute, 90, Cannon Street, London, E.C., for terms. The Uniform Pension Scheme for Nurses can be obtained through this Institute from the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society, which is recognised as one of the most reliable insurance societies in the world. It was founded in 1808, and has funds invested to the extent of £11,000,000.

An anonymous gift of £1,000 has been sent to the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund. This sum will enable the Council to found one annuity fully, and to add to others, and so bring them up to full endowment standard.

On Wednesday, the 5th inst., the Nurses' Prize Distribution will take place at the Leicester Infirmary. It will be the first time that a gold medal has been awarded, and the presentation to the fortunate recipient will be made by Mrs. Charles Booth at 3.30 o'clock. Tea will afterwards be served at 4.15. Miss Rogers has invited guests to this very interesting function.

Miss L. L. Dock writes from New York that the third volume of "A History of Nursing" "is passing through the press, and I hope will be ready for Cologne. . . . Our Suffrage Parade was a glorious success. Over 200 nurses out, and all the important ones there."

Miss Sarah F. Martin, formerly Superintendent of Nurses at the Robert Garrett Hospital, New York, has recently been appointed the chief of three inspectors to see the 10-hour law for working women is obeyed. It is good

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)