

Lancet of Nov. 11 gave a full report of an examination of the contents of one of the chests, which is most interesting and convincing in its reading.

NURSING ECHOES.

. All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

THERE is an interesting annotation in last week's *British Medical Journal*, which my readers will



be glad to see. "Sick Nursing in Lunatic Asylums has of late been steadily forcing itself to the front, and some correspondence has taken place with regard to it. While scarcely agreeing with the sweeping assertions made with regard to the character of the

material from which Asylum Nurses and attendants are made, we would point out that to a large extent the nature of an Asylum Nurse's occupation has been found to include so much that is beyond the technical duties of a Trained Nurse of the general Hospital type, that candidates for Nursing as a profession have avoided what is popularly called 'mental Nursing,' and have taken up the more strictly defined work of the Medical and Surgical Wards of the Hospital.

"It is with the view of endeavouring to overcome this distaste for the duties of Asylum Nursing that the Medico-Psychological Association has proposed a scheme for the education and Registration of Asylum attendants, male and female. The objects of the scheme are a systematic course of training extending over a definite period, and at the end of the time, the granting of certificates of proficiency after examination. The conditions under which these certificates will be granted have been clearly laid down, and in addition to practical instruction in the care, management, and nursing of the insane, there will be courses of lectures, not only bearing directly upon this part of the subject, but also upon the principles of nursing in general, as well as those which apply to 'first aid.'

"THAT in many Asylums there are no Hospital-trained Nurses may be true; Hospital-trained Nurses will not take up Asylum work, and if they did there would only be occupation for a very limited number of them, because the proportion of physical invalids in any asylum is extremely

small. We have taken indiscriminately ten Asylums visited by the Commissioners, and the number given in their last year's report are 7,361 patients on the books, 337 in bed, and 610 under medical treatment, or not more than four per cent. in bed (and this includes aged and feeble), and eight per cent. under medical treatment; in the majority of the latter cases for some slight passing ailment requiring no nursing whatever.

"IN all well managed Asylums the Infirmary Wards are in the hands of Nurses of tried experience and trustworthiness, and the appointment of 'Charge Nurse of the Infirmary Ward' is looked upon as a higher grade. One of our correspondents has said truly that women of a higher class—that is women of refined feelings and habits of gentler and wider sympathies—have not yet taken up Asylum Nursing; and all will heartily join with him in his expression of regret that it is so, but the difficulty is in the nature of the calling."

"THE higher class of women," another correspondent writes, "when called upon to face the language and the conduct of the occupants of a Ward for acute cases, would, in many instances, retire from the scene with a shudder, and their introduction to the chamber of a 'wet and dirt' acute maniac, which requires more firmness and determination than the Trained Hospital Nurse ever dreamt of, would probably settle the matter at once; or, perhaps, the amount of courage required to stand up to a furious lunatic would, on a pinch, be found wanting, and the result would be a hasty retreat. Physical strength and courage are essentials in the making of a good Asylum Nurse; given these, with the training proposed, add the requirement of feeling and wider sympathy we all desire to see brought into the service of the insane, and we expect that the Asylum Nurse of the future will compare favourably with those engaged in any other department of nursing."

OUR ever-interesting contemporary, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, gives the following news which will be interesting to many Nurses. "Many of the company took the occasion to go over the Hospital (the New Hospital for Women), which in its present form was only opened six months ago. In everything appeared the same feminine practicalness and care of detail and daintiness of which the little 'Institute' is the flower. Seeing that not only the Committee, but the management and staff also, are feminine, this is encouraging to those who argue the need of a feminine element on other Hospital Committees. In view of the Nursing controversy now going on, one had a specially alert eye for the little conveniences

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