

hundred visits. The Nurses' Home opened yesterday has accommodation for six or eight Nurses. It starts free of debt, and the friends of the Society will thus be able to concentrate their efforts on the maintenance of an efficient staff of Nurses."

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I AM asked to give space for the letter below, in the hope that the Metropolis may follow the very excellent example set by our northern friends:—

"Sir,—Will you favour me with a little space in your valuable paper to suggest to any of the ladies in the vicinity of Manchester, who possess large hearts, large gardens, and suitable pockets, to follow the example of some young ladies who reside in Victoria Park, and to open their houses and grounds to the Nurses of our various hospitals, more especially for those who are engaged in our Workhouse Infirmary? It is not every lady who could entertain as handsomely with band and strawberries, but very many could give a simple garden party, if the suggestion were only made to them.—Yours, &c.,  
A HELPER.

"P.S.—The Nurses, obviously, could not all be spared at once, and might be entertained on separate afternoons."

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I DO not often, if ever, make the "Echoes" columns a medium for noticing inventions or preparations, but I feel so much constrained to write respecting that useful little article, the Carbolio Smoke Ball, that I venture to "create a precedent." It consists of an india-rubber or composite ball, which is charged with a pleasantly carbolated powder. By applying the ivory mouthpiece to the nostrils and squeezing the ball rather sharply, a minute shower of the powder is injected into them, and becomes in fact an exceedingly simple and effective application of a pleasant antiseptic to the mucous membrane of the nostrils. By the use of the Carbolio Smoke Ball hay fever and catarrh are undoubtedly relieved. A Medical friend of mine, a contributor and subscriber to the *Nursing Record*, bears me out in my good opinion respecting the Smoke Balls, for he has used them with success in his practice, and also assures me that he does not think I am acting in any way unprofessionally in writing and recommending them. The address of the manufacturer is 27, Princes Street, Hanover Square, W. S. G.

## WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

### LADIES AND DESIGN.

THE National Art Training School, South Kensington, S. W., needs a preliminary few words ere entering more fully into one of its departments with regard to ladies. I am indebted for my information with respect to the school to the kindness of the Principal, J. Sparkes, Esq. The school is divided into two departments, or to quote a prospectus, "The National Art Train-

ing School at South Kensington is established for the purpose of training Art Masters and Mistresses for the United Kingdom, and for instruction of students in drawing, designing, and modelling to be applied to the requirements of trade and manufactures." We will touch only on the latter department here, leaving the former for another week, as the subject is too large to be dealt with in one article. Those desirous of making a profession of either design or portrait painting cannot do better than study in this famous, though young School of Art. "The payment of £5 per term of five months entitles a candidate to admission to the School for five months, for both day and evening classes, whilst the payment of £1 1s. per term enables a candidate to attend a Special Designing Class, on either Monday or Tuesday. The evening classes are of course cheaper, £1 entitling the candidate to admission for five months to these classes, which are held either from 6.30 to 8.30, or from six to eight o'clock on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Examinations for admission are held frequently throughout the year, at the School, on Tuesdays. Entrance fee two shillings and sixpence for day students, and sixpence for evening students, to be paid at the time of examination." All applicants must, unless engaged in architecture, have passed the Second Grade Examination in Freehand. The course of study is divided into two sets—first, for those wishing to study landscape, still life, and flower-painting, and secondly for those wishing to study the figure; but to really excel both courses should be taken. There is also an advanced class, under the direction of Mr. Stannus. Now for the other side of the question. Is there any opening for ladies as designers? Mr. Sparkes was not altogether hopeful as to ladies gaining a living thus. He said the great drawback was that they could not, or at least did not, as a rule, work in the shops like the men, and thus they found it difficult to obtain regular employment, though firms were often willing to pay a good price for some original design. Designs for papers or cretonnes were much in request if novel and artistic; but glass painting, or rather designing for houses and churches, gives, he considers, more regular work. Book illustration, or black and white as it is technically termed, is a fairly good and above all promising field for designers, and many women are now working in it; but for success in both the last two a knowledge of figure drawing is almost necessary, though the head pieces of chapters can in the latter case be accomplished without such knowledge. I need hardly add that it is no good anyone entering on such a career, unless they have decided artistic tastes; if

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)