

NURSING ECHOES.

At the Gresham College, Basinghall Street, Dr. F. M. Sandwith, M.D., will deliver a series of four lectures on "The History of Nursing and Florence Nightingale," commencing on Tuesday, June 2nd. The Lectures, which are free to the public, commence each evening at six o'clock. The first lecture will deal with nursing till the middle of the nineteenth century. On Wednesday the professor will describe the origin of modern nursing by Florence Nightingale. On Thursday trained nursing will be explained, while Friday evening will be devoted to lantern slides bearing upon the subjects of the previous lectures.

Visitors to the Royal Academy should not miss in the Central Hall devoted to sculpture No. 2,016, "Florence Nightingale. Memorial statue to be erected at Derby," by Countess Feodora Gleichen. In our issue of April 4th, we published an illustration of the statue in which the Nurses' lawgiver is depicted wearing the simple dress, scarf, and close-fitting cap which are associated with her personality. In her right hand she carries a lamp aloft, and in her left notes and keys.

Every week we hear of the difficulties of hospital committees and Boards of Guardians owing to their inability to obtain nurses. The only remedy suggested by these bodies is an all-round rise of salaries. Salaries need raising throughout the nursing world, no doubt; but there must be other inducements for well-educated women who desire to qualify themselves for their responsible work. Better professional education and training must be available, and it is in this direction that more money must be spent. It is no use hospital committees pleading that they conduct charitable institutions and cannot afford to pay for up-to-date teaching. They claim to conduct Nursing Schools—they admit probationers as pupils, efficient education must be forthcoming. If not, the supply of probationers will continue to dwindle.

"Good work is being done by Miss Cumming and her nurses, and their services are much appreciated." These words are contained in the report of the Committee of the Institute as the result of the inspection of the work of the Borough of Portsmouth Victoria Association for Nursing the Sick Poor in their own homes. If any further testimony of the noble work of the Queen's nurses in Portsmouth is required it will be found in the 29th

annual report. It is a record of self-sacrificing labour, performed often under exacting and tiring conditions, and the volumes of correspondence received from grateful patients, who, though poor, have sent, in small sums, £43 gs. towards the funds, show the depth of the appreciation of the nurses' efforts. The nursing staff consists of four staff nurses and five candidates, together with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, one of whom is known as the "Dickens Nurse," her salary having been paid since March 13th by the Birthplace Fellowship.

The following extracts are from letters written by a General Hospital Birmingham Nurse now at the Escuela de Nurses, Monte Video:—

I follow with the greatest interest the news of the nursing world, thanks to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

We have very fine surgeons and medical men, and very nice big hospitals, but alas! the nursing service is very deficient, entirely left in the hands of the lowest and commonest type of men and women. So that it became obvious to the new Director-General of all the hospitals—the absolute need of reforming the nursing services, and he decided that the care of the sick poor should be improved, with the result that the Uruguayan Government appointed Dr. Carlos Nery, who has been studying this question for the past ten years, whilst living in London, and who thoroughly understands English ways and our hospital methods, as the Director of this School, and with him five English trained sisters to teach Uruguayan nurses our profession. I happen to be one of them, and I have now been here for two years and can already see the improvement.

We have twenty-two probationers, twenty of whom have completed their first year. The training is for two years in the School, and another year in any other government hospital. Here they have the opportunity of getting theoretical classes from the Director and practical teaching from the Sisters.

Last month we had thirty-four admissions, eight major operations (chiefly gynaecological), 1,116 out-patients, besides the work of a small dispensary. We are going to have State Registration as soon as our nurses have completed their three years training, and the standard of training will be uniform.

The climate is delightful, with a few very hot days in the summer and a few very cold ones in the winter. The people are very respectful, and we are within twelve hours of Buenos Ayres. One is as free as one would be in England, and we have a good Home, good food, and plenty of everything. The sisters wear white uniforms.

It is so important, to my thinking, what we teach in the beginning, and I feel so much our need of competent people.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)