

## NURSING ECHOES.

One of the most important and responsible positions in the nursing world is that of Head Sister in Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service. Many of our readers will be glad to have the portrait of Miss Evangelina E. Harte, Senior Head Sister in the Royal Naval Nursing Service, now stationed at Plymouth. Miss Harte received the Royal Red Cross in 1909 for special devotion to the sick and wounded, and is wearing the embroidered badge distinctive of Sisters in the Royal Navy, which we described in detail last week.

The trustees of the late Miss Maria Merier have decided to make a gift of £1,000 for the Endowment Fund of the Great Harwood District Nurses' Institute, and a similar sum is to be given to the Nursing Institutes at Rishton, Accrington, and Blackburn. This is a wise decision; more money might well be willed to District Nursing Associations: it greatly benefits the poor.

We hear that in a private hospital where wounded officers are received, the lay Lady Superintendent proceeds round the wards with a money box, and inquires who will give her something for her poor nurses? Donations from grateful patients pour in, from a source from which we consider they should never be invited.

A Departmental Committee, which has been enquiring into the working of the National Insurance Act, states in its report, issued on Monday last:—"We have received evidence to the effect that the institution of a system of nursing for insured persons would tend to shorten sickness claims. We recommend that any nursing service for insured persons should be correlated with the administration of medical benefit under the Act." While the Insurance Bill was before Parliament trained nurses pointed out the benefit of a standardized Nursing Service.

From time to time the grievances of the Oldmill Hospital Nursing Staff (Aberdeen) crops up, and one wonders why the authorities do not listen to complaints and remedy them. Instead, we have long letters in the local press, and numerous excuses for a condition of things which to the modern nursing world appear to be archaic. The truth is, the nursing staff needs substantially increasing, so that hours on duty may be decreased. As nurses are the only class of workers who have a seven-day working week, it should certainly be possible for them to attend a place of worship every Sunday, if they so desire, outside the gates. We are tired of reading long, inspired letters in the Aberdeen press of excuses for failing to treat Oldmill nurses with justice and consideration. It is high time things were put on a generous working basis, and grievances removed.



MISS EVANGELINA R. HARTE, R.R.C.

Miss M. E. Butcher offers suggestions in the *Nursing Journal of India* for an ideal nurse's uniform for Indian Nurses:—White calico or other opaque Indian cotton cloth frock, made all in one, gathered into yoke neatly finished with its own turned-down collar, and sleeves also gathered into a narrow band just above elbow, a loosish band round waist, and skirt several inches from the floor. Preferably to be worn without an

apron, and changed daily at least. A handkerchief cap of muslin; it may be tied on by two corners under the flap at the back—or as it is required in the Punjab for a respectable girl to cover her ears, the native silver or metal curve used for chadars can be folded in the top corner and keeps it in place, two corners allowed to fall on to the shoulders and one down back. This costume combines freedom of movement, asepsis, and coolness in great heat; and any amount of necessary under-clothing can be worn under it in the cold. It is decent in every way: it has few buttons to come off, and no possibility of parting at waist; it is easily washed and boiled, and consists of only two pieces. Waistband being permanently adjusted, this is necessary to prevent tripping

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