

## NURSING ECHOES.

\*.\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

ONCE more the much-dreaded half-yearly examination of Probationers at St. Bartholomew's has come and gone. Miss Harland has gained the much-coveted gold medal as the most distinguished Nurse at the final examination after three years' training, and Miss Rogers has gained the prize of books—given to the Probationer that heads the list at the primary exam.—after twelve months' study.



SIR WILLIAM SAVORY, a pillar of strength to any cause which he advocates, has resigned his position as Senior Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Only those who have worked with, and for, him can estimate the irreparable loss which the Hospital sustains in parting with him. How accurately Ernest William Henley's lines on "The Chief," in describes him:—

"His brow spreads large and placid, and his eye  
Is deep and bright, with steady looks and still  
Soft lines of tranquil thought his face fulfil—  
His face at once benign and proud and shy,  
If envy scout, if ignorance deny;  
His faultless patience, his unyielding will,  
Beautiful gentleness and splendid skill,  
Innumerable gratuities reply.  
His wise, rare smile is sweet with certainties,  
And seems in all his patients to compel  
Such love and faith as failure cannot quell.  
We hold him for another Herakles,  
Battling with custom, prejudice, disease,  
As once the son of Zeus with death and hell."

I HEAR from a kind correspondent that Mrs. Strong, the late Matron of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, has been requested by the Directors to return to that much-troubled Institution and set things straight. This will be good news for the Nurses, as during her term of office she gained the respect and affection of her subordinates, as their well-being was always her first consideration. Mrs. Strong is a lady of exceptional ability, and practically returns to the Royal as a Dictator, as it is only upon the promise of drastic reforms being inaugurated in

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the Nursing Department that she consents to return at all. It will be remembered that she resigned her post five years ago, owing to the constant friction arising from the autocracy of a fellow official; but we should imagine that after the late *exposé*, and consequent indignation of the subscribers to the Institution, that she will not have to complain of this trouble for the future.

THE truth of the whole matter is that the Hospital is very much under-nursed. There are no Sisters or Head Nurses, as in our English Hospitals, the Staff for a Ward of twenty beds consisting of one Staff Nurse, one Probationer for day duty, and one Probationer for night duty. The Staff Nurse is usually an experienced woman; but when she is off duty, the Ward, sometimes containing *twenty critical cases*, is left in the entire charge of a Probationer of one day's experience and upwards. Probationers of six or eight months' experience are placed in entire charge in the night, and kept on permanent night duty for *two years or so*. The only chance these Probationers have of gaining practical experience is by remaining on duty till mid-day. Such a system seems almost incredible in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The patients will never receive the skilled attention they require until the Nursing Staff is largely increased. The Staff necessary for the *efficient* Nursing of twenty critical cases should be one Sister—and she should be a three years' trained certificated Nurse—one Staff Nurse (certificated), and two Probationers; one Staff Nurse (certificated) on night duty, and one Probationer. The certificated Nurses should take day and night duty in turns for a term of three months. For a Ward containing more than twenty beds, a permanent Staff Day Nurse will be necessary, who shall be on duty at all times when the Sister is off duty. Considering the great wealth of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, these reforms should be inaugurated at once.

MISS ROSALIND PAGET has resigned her position as Inspector of Nurses, in connection with the Queen's Jubilee Institute. We are not surprised to hear this, and are glad to hear that Miss Emily Mansel is taking the duty *pro. tem.* Miss Mansel was the Superintendent of the National and Metropolitan Association of Trained Nurses for the Poor, and has endeared herself to her Nurses by a rare and excellent combination of qualities—sympathy and justice in all her dealings with them. Has Miss Mansel no uncle or friend on the Council of the Institute who could *conscientiously* recommend her for the vacant post, which she is so eminently qualified to fill?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)