

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



WE have pleasure in announcing that the prize of one guinea for the best Nursing Notes of a case of Colotomy, has been awarded to Miss Florence M. Hewitt of the Registered Nurses' Society. Miss Hewitt was trained and certificated at St. George's Hospital, and was registered in 1892.

The notes sent by Miss F. H. Hammick, of the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro on, "Excision of Cataract of Right Eye," are highly commended, but containing less than 400 words did not come within the regulations for a prize. The notes must consist of from 1,000 to 1,500 words.

THE Quarterly Meeting of the Committee of the Nurses' Home of Rest was held at 79, Harley Street, on Monday, the 22nd inst., at 5 p.m., Lady Jeune in the chair. The work of the Home still continues to be carried on in the most satisfactory manner, but as usual more funds for its support are needed. Nurses with rich and kindly friends might forward them a Report, which can be obtained from the Hon. Sec., at 20, Upper Wimpole Street.

MISS LILIAN M. JACKSON, of the North Eastern Hospital for Children, has been awarded 5s. for the best Echo for the week as follows:—

"The treatment of diphtheria by means of anti-toxic serum being a subject now much under discussion, it is interesting to notice the different means taken to obtain that substance. It is hoped that before long it may be used, not only as a curative, but also as a prophylactic agent. The animal chosen to be rendered immune, is a horse in good condition and free from tubercle. A small quantity of prepared pure culture of the virulent diphtheria bacillus is injected under the skin of the animal (generally in the neck), this process being repeated constantly for about three months, the size of the

dose being gradually increased. During this period of immunization, the animal does not appear to be much affected by this treatment. The blood is then drawn off from the jugular vein and the vessels containing it placed in an ice-safe, till the clot or solid portion is separated from the serum, this is then placed in small vessels, the strictest antiseptic measures being used to exclude all germs. The serum is then practically ready for use, and the dose generally given is from 10 to 20 c.c. The serum seems to act in two direct ways upon the patient, first by acting on the bacilli and depriving them of their power to produce toxines, and second by stimulating the tissues and cells to resist the growth of the bacilli."

It is a very hopeful sign of the times and the progressive spirit in the Nursing world that an Association of workers in Insane Asylums has been formed. The inaugural meeting took place on July 18th, in the rooms of the Medical Society, Chandos Street, and was very well attended.

Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson in his position of chairman said that "in general Hospitals there had been during the last half century a revolution in the matter of Nursing the sick, so that sick Nursing had really become a sort of highly-educated profession, to the immense benefit of the sick; while no commensurate improvements had taken place amongst the attendants of asylums. It was for the interests of the insane that asylum attendants should have the highest position compatible with their work, so that the varied and yet limited and repeated phases of insanity might become scientifically known, with proper methods of management scientifically familiarised. Lastly, every effort would be made to relieve the attendants of asylums, to the advantage of the insane themselves, and rendering insanity less dreaded and unconquerable as a disease. For all these reasons the new Institution worthily demanded the most energetic public support it could receive."

Hitherto asylum attendants have been working under the disadvantages of isolation. There has been no definite standard or training. All workers among the insane have been classed together as "asylum attendants," and they have suffered from all the disadvantages, personal and professional, of having no organisation through which they could reach a more satisfactory basis of education and training.

The general public has little or no idea of the mental anxieties and responsibilities of the

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