

## NURSING ECHOES.

\*.\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

I HEAR, on good authority, that Her Grand Ducal Highness the Princess Louis of Battenberg, having expressed her desire to be connected with the Royal British Nurses' Association, has been elected a Vice-President of the Association. The Princess is a daughter of the late Princess Alice of Great Britain; and as she has taken up all the important Hospital work which her mother initiated, she naturally holds a prominent place in the Nursing world in Germany, and takes the deepest interest in all Nursing matters.



THE *Conversazione* of the Association this year promises to be the most successful of all the successful gatherings hitherto held. I hear that there is a great demand for the tickets for Members and their friends, the prices of which are one shilling and five shillings respectively. The ordinary guests' tickets are half-a-guinea each, and there is a very large demand for these, I am told. A committee of well-known ladies and gentlemen is working with a Sub-Committee of the Association in organising the arrangements. And in view of the many hundreds who are expected to be present, their help must be most useful.

I HAVE much pleasure in drawing the attention of my readers to the letter which appears amongst our correspondence this week respecting the proposed Memorial to the late Miss Freeman, who was for many years the Lady Superintendent of the Royal County Hospital at Winchester. I doubt not that the appeal will be widely and well responded to.

LAST week's papers contain the account of an inquest which took place at the London Hospital respecting the death of a patient in that Institution. The husband deposed that the deceased wanted a "feeder," so he procured her one. Does not the London Hospital provide its patients with the necessary utensils? A friend of the deceased deposed that she visited her, and found

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her in great agony and suffering from great thirst. Witness did not know what to do for her, so filled the feeder from a bowl of water on another patient's bed and gave it to deceased, who drank a little. The patient died, and it transpired that the water was carbolic acid lotion. It is quite useless to attempt to arouse the Committee, but I would ask the public if this is their idea of Nursing? A patient parched with thirst is dependent on a casual visitor for a drink of water: a deadly poison is left casually about for casual visitors to partake of, or hand round to the patients. I don't for a moment blame the Nurse—she was probably struggling to perform a physical impossibility, the fate of all her colleagues—to be in four places at the same moment. But, I ask, how many more of the sick poor are to be neglected, and perhaps "poisoned by misadventure," before reforms are made?

OUR contemporary, the *Woman's Herald*, had the following sensible letter last week: "I think it might be productive of some good if you would, through the medium of your columns, call attention to the great want of Lady Nurses or attendants in our Private Lunatic Asylums and Sanatoriums. In these Institutions many ladies are placed in the hope of a cure of, perhaps, very slight brain derangement, but they receive such rough treatment from the attendants that their disease is more aggravated than cured. Much suffering is undergone by helpless, high-bred ladies in consequence of the rough handling they receive from low-class attendants, whose services the Doctors themselves regret they are unable to dispense with, it being impossible to procure a better class of attendants. There exists a distaste to the work, which, after all, is not nearly so severe as the Hospital Nursing. Many ladies who break down under the hard work in the Hospitals would be an inestimable boon to the helpless invalids, to whom a little sympathy from one of their own class would often mean the difference between a rapid recovery and the prolongation of their misery."

THERE are few more popular or better managed Nursing Institutions in the provinces than the well-known one at Lincoln. It is no credit, therefore, to that wealthy city that the funds of the Institution are in such an embarrassed condition. I learn, on excellent authority, that much of the Nursing is done at very unremunerative rates in order to meet the cases of families who are unable to pay the ordinary charges for skilled Nursing, and that seven of the Nurses are permanently employed in gratuitous District work amongst the sick poor in the city.

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