

Nursing Echoes.

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WE feel sure it will interest our readers to know that the last of the series of articles on the Royal British Nurses' Association, and which will appear next week, will be from the pen of Lady JEUNE, from the point of view of "one of the public."

WE appreciate a Nurse's weakness for "pars," but hope none of our readers will "skip" Miss MARIAN HUMFREY'S article in this week's issue.

MRS. POTTER PALMER, the President of the Board of Lady Managers at Chicago, writes:—

"I am glad to learn that after five years of courageous work, the Royal British Nurses' Association has been so highly honoured by the grant of a Royal Charter of Incorporation. This is certainly a great step in advance, and I beg to offer my sincere congratulations."

WE cull the following extract from a report sent in by Miss ANNESLEY KENEALY to the Ladies' Committee of the Royal Commission of the World's Fair:—

"In reviewing my own Department, I regret to say that Great Britain was almost entirely unrepresented. With the exception of the British Nursing Section, which was regarded as having reached the highest point of perfection in its class, and as furnishing a model for the world, England contributed practically nothing to help in the solution of the problems of Hygiene and Sanitation. I am glad to be able to report that the British Nursing Section carried off the highest honours of any Hospital Exhibit at the Fair."

It is somewhat tantalising to learn that the winners of medals and diplomas at the late Exposition at Chicago, will have to wait from eight months to a year for them. None of the medals have been struck, and the diplomas will not be given until the medals are ready.

IN an out-of-the-way corner in the New South Wales Section in the Liberal Arts Building at Chicago, was to be found one of the most practical and ingenious inventions for the use of invalids. This was The Nurse Fox-Harding Patent Improved Mattress which had previously been awarded a Silver Medal at the Women's Work Exhibition in Sydney in 1892. This patent consists of a well stuffed hair mattress with a deep pear-shaped

cavity in the centre. This cavity is lined with mackintosh; a soft india-rubber cushion fits into the cavity, and can be inflated with bellows through the valve at the end of the tube, until the cushion is perfectly even with the surface of the mattress.

It will thus be seen that the valve can be screwed and unscrewed at will, so that the amount of air required in the cushion can be regulated, and the patient, suffering from typhoid, paralysis, or abdominal section, reposes always on a soft air-cushion, and need not be raised for syringing or other purposes. This invention has received the warmest approval of 84 of the leading medical men of Sydney to whom it was submitted.

FROM the proceeds of the royalty from this mattress, Nurse FOX-HARDING wishes to raise a Home for Sick Nurses and those who are past work. The mattress would thus have two missions—the present comfort of the sick and the future comfort of the Nurses. It has been arranged that this bed—the very best of its kind we have seen—shall be exhibited in the Nursing Exhibition which will take place in London in 1894 or 1895.

ONE cannot help regretting the fact that Christ's Hospital is pronounced by the Medical Officer of Health for the City of London, to be in an insanitary condition. The deficiencies more especially relate to the drainage, which is of an antiquated character. If it is true that the attention of the governors was drawn several years ago by their own medical officer to the sanitary defects and that—owing to the continued presence of illness in the headmaster's house two years ago—communication was found to exist between the basement of his house and the great sewer system of the Hospital, they are to blame in permitting the boys under their charge to run the risks which have culminated in the outbreak of scarlet fever.

BUT "it is an ill wind which blows no one any good," and the long looked for time, we hope, may have at last arrived when the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, may acquire the Christ's Hospital ground, and there find space—which they sadly lack at present—upon which to build the new Nurses' Home which is so greatly needed, and, in fact, without which, the duties of the Matron and Home Sister must be performed with the utmost difficulty, and with an expenditure of thought and labour, which would not be necessary in a building constructed to meet the needs of the Nursing Staff.

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