

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



PRINCE and Princess CHRISTIAN and Princess VICTORIA of Schleswig-Holstein were present last week at a performance given at the Windsor Theatre in aid of Princess CHRISTIAN'S organization of trained nurses.

THE Countess of WARWICK, who is one of the vice-presidents of the newly-formed Essex Cottage Nursing Association, has undertaken to defray the cost of furnishing a Nurses' Home which the Association intends to establish at Leyton, and to pay the rent annually.

ON Friday, the beautiful new Nurses' Home, in connection with the London Fever Hospital, at Islington, was opened by Lady BALFOUR of Burreigh. Lord BALFOUR stated that Nurses in an infectious hospital were, to a great extent, cut off from the outside world, and therefore everything should be arranged to make their home life attractive. The building is a substantial erection of three floors, and provides ample accommodation for 30 Nurses, with triple bedrooms, and two sitting rooms, the cost of which, with furniture, amounts to £7,000. The Committee are appealing for a piano and a library, which we have little doubt will be provided by the public, as this Hospital is a great boon to the better classes, being the only Hospital in the Metropolis where infectious cases are received for payment, and where they can rely upon excellent nursing and attention.

THROUGH the generosity of Mr. PETER COATS, of Garthland Place, Paisley, the addition of a detached Home for Nurses will be made to the new Paisley Infirmary, which is about to be erected at Egypt Park, Paisley. To the building fund of this the trustees of the late Mr. W. B. BARBOUR, M.P., allocated £15,000, and the late Mr. JOHN CLARK bequeathed £10,000. At a private meeting of the Infirmary directors, a letter was read from Mr. COATS offering to build the Home, and undertaking the preparation of plans and equipment of the building. The generous gift will relieve the directors from the difficulty of finding accommodation for Nurses in the new building, which will now

be entirely utilised for the Infirmary. The estimated cost of the Nurses' Home will be about £10,000.

WE are glad to observe that Miss ALICE HINTON, a member of the Workhouse Nursing Association, is to be the recipient of a testimonial in recognition of her excellent work on behalf of sick paupers, in exposing and practically ending the scandalous mismanagement at the Newton Abbot Workhouse. Over £60 has already been subscribed.

How many human lives have been sacrificed to lack of precaution. The death of the poor woman who committed suicide last week in a Metropolitan Hospital, by swallowing nitric acid, could, we imagine, have been prevented according to the evidence. One Night Nurse only was on duty in a large medical ward of thirty beds during the night, full, we should imagine from experience of London General Hospitals, of patients suffering from more or less acute diseases. At 3.55 this one Nurse left the ward to prepare the patients' breakfast in the adjoining kitchen, thus leaving the ward practically without a Nurse. A patient got out of bed, ran across to the doctor's table, seized a bottle, and swallowed its contents. From this simple report an expert will learn much. First of all, that, if thirty medical patients are to be nursed at night, more than one Nurse must be on duty; that, with this additional help, it would certainly not be necessary to prepare breakfast before 4 a.m.; and, thirdly, that poisons of all sorts should be kept under lock and key. We trust that the Committee of the Hospital, where this deplorable occurrence took place, will institute these necessary reforms at an early date.

"At 4 a.m. I extinguish the night lamp, lighting a few gases instead, and wake and wash the eight children on the surgical side, make beds, renew dressings, &c. At five, more gases are needed, and I give my attention to the women. These occupy me till 6.20, when I prepare tea for the three day Nurses, who will be here in a quarter of an hour. Till eight o'clock we work together. Then the day Sister arrives, I give her my report, and my night labours are over."

The above quotation we cull from "Notes by a Night Nurse," lately published in the *Queen*. The name of the Institution is withheld, but the identity of the Hospital in which poor little sick children are awakened and washed, and their wounds dressed, at 4 a.m., should at once be made known to the public, so that some pressure could be brought to bear upon its Committee to forbid such a barbarous arrangement.

WE read that "Mr. E. J. SANDERS, J.P., presided at the annual meeting of the Devon and Exeter

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)