

Nursing Echoes.

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, has intimated her intention of being present at the Ninth Annual Conversazione, to be held in December, when she will present the badges to the members.

WE beg to thank those of our readers who have intimated during the past week, in appreciative letters, their estimate of the NURSING RECORD as an educational and professional medium, and we are glad to hear that many of them take the trouble to forward their copy of our paper to fellow Nurses and friends. We find such appreciation very encouraging, especially as the editing of the Journal becomes more arduous month by month.

ON Monday, an accidental poisoning case at Guy's Hospital was inquired into by Mr. Langham, the deceased being a labourer who died from the effects of drinking carbolic acid. Nurse Ella Laurence stated that deceased drank the carbolic acid left in a mug on his locker, and placed there for him to use as a spittoon. The Coroner questioned Dr. Alfred Slater, the House Physician, as to whether such cases had occurred before, to which he answered: "Yes, but never with fatal results. The amount of carbolic is very small, and specially coloured to warn the patients. A patient expectorating with a lung complaint would be infectious without the carbolic. It is the practice in all large Hospitals. There is an element of danger in it; but the danger would be far greater without it."

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and added a rider recommending that some distinctive mark should be placed on the mugs to render accidents of this character less likely to be repeated. It would be much more simple to use a disinfectant of a non-poisonous

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 Economical in use, and goes far in brewing.

nature. It is rather a wide statement on the part of Dr. Slater that "it is the practice in all large Hospitals" to place mugs on lockers containing sufficient poison to cause death. We know a great many Hospitals where such "a practice" is certainly not in vogue.

AT a recent meeting of the Southport Relief Committee a letter was read from Mrs. Barrett, secretary of the Southport and Birkdale Nursing Society, asking for an increase in the subscription given by the Ormskirk Union to the funds of the Society, as the amount given by the Board did not average one farthing for every visit paid to pauper cases by the Nurses. It was also asked that the Relieving Officer should give his orders for nourishing food through the Society, and it would be supplied properly prepared from the invalid kitchen to the person for whom it was intended. The Committee agreed to raise the amount of their subscription from five guineas to ten guineas per annum, but did not agree to the suggestion that the Relieving Officer should give his orders on the Society, the officer named anticipating difficulties arising.

A very interesting discussion took place relative to Mrs. Barrett's most excellent suggestion that the Relieving Officer's order for food should be supplied by the invalid kitchen attached to the Nursing Society, instead of through a butcher, many advantages of the proposal being pointed out. First of all, the sick persons for whom the food was ordered would themselves receive and take the invalid diets, which would be all ready cooked and scientifically prepared for them, instead probably of sharing a meagre allowance of badly-cooked meat with other members of the family, the rule being that the ladies who took the food round from the kitchen would see that the invalid actually got it.

From the following report of arguments used at the meeting, we gather, from the *Southport Visitor*, that the Relieving Officer, like the rest of his kind, has not yet emancipated himself from the shades of the immortal Bumble:—

"Mr. Mulgrew said that while the Committee would be very glad to adopt the suggestion made by the writer, and many of them thought it would be a very good thing for the poor, still they considered that the distribution of the Relieving Officer's orders on this kitchen might lead to some little trouble. They believed that it was a much better method of distributing the food than that which now obtained, but they also thought that at present there might perhaps be something in the nature of overlapping. The meat and other things would be too good for the ordinary pauper, while the Relieving Officer thought there would be a good many people apply for relief if they knew they were going to get it in that way.

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