

Annotations.

THE BIRTH OF A FUTURE PRINCESS ROYAL.

THE great event of the week in this country has undoubtedly been the birth of an infant daughter to the Duke and Duchess of York. This took place at York Cottage, Sandringham, on Sunday the 25th inst., at 3.30 p.m., and it is with the greatest satisfaction that the nation hears that both mother and child are going on well. There is a very real and deep sympathy between the British people and its Royal Family, and the joys and sorrows of the latter are keenly felt by the nation at large. It is, therefore, a most pleasurable duty to chronicle the birth of the future Princess Royal, and we tender to the Duke and Duchess of York the sincere congratulations of the nursing profession upon the happy event.

ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

REVISED regulations for the nursing service of the army have been issued from the War Office. The classification is to be as follows:—Lady-superintendent of nurses, superintendents, and nursing sisters. The two former classes will, as a rule, but not necessarily, be each filled up from the grade below it, by selection on grounds of experience, administrative capacity, and personal fitness. Candidates for appointment of superintendent or nursing sister must not be under 25 or over 30 years old, and must have had at least three years' preliminary training and service combined in a civil general hospital. They must also be of British parentage, or naturalised British subjects, and will be required to produce an extract of register of birth or declaration in lieu thereof, a recommendation from a person of good social position, a statement as to whether they are single, married, or widows, whether members of a society, and giving particulars as to duration of hospital training, certificates of efficiency in medical and surgical nursing, recommendation from the matron of the hospital at which they served, and a certificate from a qualified medical practitioner that they are in good health. On nomination for appointment, candidates will be required to undergo a period of six months' probation at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley. The pay of the lady-superintendent of nurses at Netley will be £150 per annum, increasing by £10 per annum to £200, with an additional allowance of £50 per annum for training the nursing staff. Nursing sisters will receive £30 for the first year's service, increasing by £2 yearly to £50. Nursing sisters appointed superintendents will receive additional pay at the rate of £20 per annum.

MENIAL WORK.

THERE are a certain number of persons both members of the nursing profession, and also of the general public who always resent the idea that nurses should perform any work which in their opinion is "menial." The people who as a rule take exception to this work are those whose social position is somewhat uncertain, and who therefore are afraid that their status may be compromised if they perform duties which ordinarily fall to the share of the domestic classes. The best nurses have, however, always grasped the fact that work which is done for the well-being of their patients can never be derogatory to them, and for this reason they are not content until they can perform with deftness *all* the duties of a sick room, so that they are able, if necessary, to make their patients comfortable, in all respects without any outside assistance. The tendency of the present day is we think rather to relieve nurses of all domestic work. It is not unfrequently said, with a certain amount of pride, "*our* nurses do no cleaning, we have ward maids and scrubbers who do all that, the nurses only attend to the patients." We doubt very much if the nurse who receives a training from which all "menial work" has been carefully eliminated, is as useful in a time of emergency and strain as her less delicately educated colleague. We have before pointed out that in cases of infectious disease, it is not unfrequently necessary for a nurse to take entire charge of the sick room, and she can only perform household duties efficiently, and without annoyance to her patient, if she has had previous experience in them. The question has also come before us twice quite recently. In selecting nurses to go out to India to care for the plague-stricken, and again, to go to Greece to nurse the wounded, those were necessarily most eligible who could not only perform the duties immediately connected with waiting upon patients well and skilfully, but, who were women of resource, ready for all emergencies, and capable of turning their hands to anything and everything. We would advise all nurses therefore, to qualify themselves for all positions in their profession by considering no work derogatory, and by learning to perform ordinary domestic duties well and skilfully, so as to render themselves practically self-dependent.

NO SELF-TREATMENT.

THE death of a nurse at St. John's Hospital, Lewisham, from an overdose of opium, which drug she was in the habit of taking, should be a warning to nurses of the danger of indulging in the habit of taking drugs. That the warning

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