

## Nursing Echoes.

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HER Royal Highness Princess Henry of Battenberg has successfully passed the final re-examination, and received the gold medallion, of the St. John Ambulance Association.

THERE is a very common impression abroad that University College Hospital cannot be in need of funds, because early this year, Sir John B. Maple came down with the wonderful donation of £120,000. What really happened was this: University College Hospital had for some long time wanted rebuilding. Even its 210 beds, which occupied every available inch of space, and made it necessary for the nurses to sleep out at lodgings in neighbouring houses, by no means met the demand.

BUT Sir John's munificent gift does not touch the ordinary Maintenance Fund—except to assume that the public will make it larger so as to meet the increased possibilities of work, and it is sincerely to be hoped that some organized attempt to obtain funds to efficiently maintain this old and valuable charity will be made by its old friends and supporters.

THE *British Medical Journal* in drawing attention to the recent troubles in connection with the nursing staff at the Camberwell Infirmary says:—

"We are inclined to believe that the Board of Guardians is trying to earn a cheap reputation for zeal and devotion by making examples of these women, who, no doubt, acted indiscreetly. The old infirmary was condemned several years ago as unfit for its purpose, and it remains unfit still. It is deficient in decent accommodation for the nurses, and that sanitary defects exist, it is, we believe, admitted. There appears to be a want of discipline throughout the establishment, which is the fault, not of individuals, but of a bad system. A correspondent, a member of the medical profession and a ratepayer, sends us an account of the observations which he made during a recent visit to the infirmary. He condemns it in respect of its defective drainage, and ventilation, and want of cleanliness. It is, he adds, fair neither to the patients, nor to the medical staff, nor to the nurses that the radically defective condition, of more especially the older buildings, should be allowed to remain without remedy. The whole infirmary, he says, is like the Irishman's gun, which wanted a new stock, a new lock, and a new barrel."

It would appear that the correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* discovered defects which

escaped the notice of Sir Henry Burdett when he visited that institution, a fact which we must confess does not cause us the slightest surprise.

OWING to a misapprehension, we stated last week that five nurses at the Royal United Hospital, Bath, were awarded silver medals at the recent examination. Only one gold and one silver medal were awarded, the winner of the silver medal being Miss Marion Jones. The other nurses passed with distinction.

THE reception given by the Mayor of Maidstone, to which we alluded last week, was a splendid success. The Lord Mayor of London and members of his family were present, as well as many of the leading citizens of Maidstone. The arrangements were made with a considerate regard for the convenience of the nurses. The Mayor, in his opening remarks, said that as Chief Magistrate of Maidstone he desired on the part of every inhabitant to thank the nurses who had assisted during their great trouble and brought them through with a very small death-rate. His worship then presented the medals, which were enclosed in handsome cases, to the night nurses, who were heartily applauded. Councillor Urmston, on behalf of the nurses, thanked the Mayor for the entertainment he had arranged in their honour. If the nurses were obliged to have a deputy, no one was more fitted for the office than Councillor Urmston, whose kindness and consideration for the nurses throughout the exceptionally trying experience through which Maidstone has passed, has been extreme, and who fulfilled the office to which he was deputed, in the happiest manner. We must say, however, that we should have been glad if one of the two hundred and seventy nurses present had been found to express her own thanks, and those of her colleagues, for the honour done to them, and for the kind and generous manner in which they have been treated by the inhabitants of Maidstone. Later in the evening the day nurses received their medals, after which the various entertainments provided were thoroughly enjoyed.

THE interesting ceremony at Maidstone in recognition of the work done by the nurses in the recent epidemic, and the bestowal of medals by the Town Council, has recalled the fact, somewhat forgotten, that a similar recognition of the work done by nurses was made in 1895 by the Mayor and Corporation of Newport, Isle of Wight. The nurses who worked through the typhoid epidemic in 1894-95, were all presented with bronze medals, specially struck in commemoration of the occasion. These medals bear the Newport arms on one side, round which is a band with the inscription "In Recognition of Services Rendered," and on the other "Typhoid Epidemic, 1894-95," together with the name of the recipient of the medal.

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