

**Nursing Echoes.**

*\*\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



A course of lectures to nurses is being delivered at the City Orthopædic Hospital, Hatton Garden, E.C., to which all nurses are admitted free. The next lecture will be given on October 25th, by Mr. Noble Smith, on "The Management of Curvatures of the Spine," followed on November 8th by Mr. John Poland on "The Human Skeleton." The lectures are at 4.30 p.m. Further particulars may be obtained from the Matron of the Hospital.

Mr. Burdett Coutts in a long letter to the press on Tuesday writes concerning the suggested Army Nursing Reform:—

"The nursing scheme is elaborate in detail, and embodies one principle I have always contended for, that the Nursing Service should be as far as possible self-contained and self-governed, the responsibility for conduct and discipline being confined to female authority. Here it runs up through nursing sisters, matrons, principal matrons, and a Matron-in-Chief, until it reaches the advisory board, which is a mixed body. There is no specific provision for this principle being carried out in a campaign, where it is most needed. In this war it would have saved infinite trouble and inconvenience. But there is a more remarkable omission from the nursing scheme. Nowhere is it stated or suggested what the strength of the Nursing Service is to be, nor is any instruction given to the future body as to what amount of female nursing a hospital is to have. At present the manual says eight nurses to 520 patients. Can it be claimed that the principle of female nursing is accepted when there is no specific review or reform of a regulation which for fifty years has been allowed to blot out the memory of Florence Nightingale from the records of the War Office?"

We honour Mr. Burdett-Coutts for his bold fight on behalf of our sick and wounded soldiers, but we think that his fear as expressed above is unfounded. It is expressly recommended by the Committee that "the Nursing Board shall be responsible for advising the Secretary of State on the strength of the nursing staff of various grades requisite in each military hospital," a much wiser provision in our opinion than the suggestion of any hard and fast rule as to the numerical strength of the nursing staff.

The date of the bazaar for the Nottingham Children's Hospital is now fixed for November

7th, 8th, and 9th. On the first day it will be opened by Lord Roberts, on the second by the Mayor of Nottingham, and on the third by the Duchess of Portland. On the evening of Friday, November 8th, there is to be a grand concert, at which Madame Melba will sing. We shall be very glad to receive any contributions our readers are kind enough to send to us for the Matron's stall as soon as possible.

The nurses of the Hereford General Hospital recently spent two enjoyable afternoons in the Donnington Court hopyards, where they rambled about the plantations and inspected the busy scene of curing and bagging hops. This is the seventh year that, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hall, they have been afforded this pleasurable and health-giving recreation. Tea was provided for them at the Court on each occasion, and a carriage was placed at the disposal of the nurses.

Miss Gascoigne, who for nine years has held the position of Matron at the Bournemouth Sanitary Hospital, was recently the recipient of various gifts on the occasion of her approaching marriage with Mr. A. Godwin Pratt. The presentations were made by Dr. P. W. Nunn, Medical Officer of Health, in the dining-room of the Nurses' Home, which was decorated for the occasion with a profusion of flowers. There was a gold bracelet set with turquoises, and a gold heart from the nursing staff, ear-rings and a scarf-pin from the servants, and a basket of ferns from the porter and his wife. The local press waxes eloquent on the appearance of the nurses, who assembled in force on this interesting occasion "in their light blue uniforms, and with their pretty caps, which looked like white butterflies settling down on flowers."

The Right Hon. the Earl and the Countess of Pembroke recently conceived a happy method of celebrating the majority of their son, Lord Herbert, when in connection with the celebrations they provided a dainty tea for the patients of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin. Accompanied by Lord Herbert, and Ladies Beatrice and Muriel Herbert, they also paid a visit to the hospital, where they were received by the Chairman, Sir William Findlater, D.L., and members of the Board of Governors and Medical Staff, as well as by the Lady Superintendent, Miss Huxley. They visited every ward, and also the new operating theatre, anæsthetic rooms, sterilizing department, and casualty rooms, and at the conclusion of the visit the Earl of Pembroke expressed the pleasure it had given to himself and his family, and announced his intention of becoming an annual subscriber to the funds of the hospital.

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