

## Nursing Echoes.

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Princess Henry of Battenberg will be present at the Annual Meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association to be held on June 7th at Sunderland House, by the kind permission of the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, when the chair will be taken by the Earl of Westmeath. The principal speakers will be the Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P., the Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, K.C., and the Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

Princess Christian visited Woolwich last week to open a home for mothers and babies and a training-school for district midwives, which has been established in Wood Street by the efforts of a committee, of which Miss Alice Gregory, of Rosemount, Hill Street, Woolwich, and Mr. F. S. Hawkes, of Lansdowne Crescent, Notting Hill, W., are joint hon. secretaries. Miss Gregory, who is herself a midwife, is the daughter of the Dean of St. Paul's, and the promotion of the scheme is largely due to her initiative. Amongst those present were the Countess of Stamford, the Marchioness of Ailsa, Canon and Mrs. Escreet, Miss Rosalind Paget (member of the Central Midwives' Board), the Mayor and Mayoress of Woolwich, and many others.

The sad suicide at the Korean Legation of Yi Hang Eung, the Secretary and Chargé d'Affaires, whose mind appears to have been unstrung by the position to which the country had been brought by the war in the Far East, and the fact that his wife and only child are in Korea, is of importance from a nursing point of view, inasmuch as his condition was evidently recognised by his friends, who summoned a medical man, and engaged a male nurse to watch him. In the brief absence of this attendant he succeeded in hanging himself. The lesson of this and all similar cases is that such a patient should never be left alone for an instant, but that preferably two nurses should be employed, or if not, if the nurse is compelled to leave the room, then a friend or relative should remain with the patient.

The Report of the Asylum Workers Association, whose annual meeting is held on Friday, May 19, is able to announce a satisfactory financial condition, there being a balance in hand at the end of the year of £81 17s. The Life Members have slightly increased, while in the roll of Ordinary Mem-

bers there is a falling off of 486 from that of 1903, and the Report states:—"It is much to be regretted that the rank and file of Asylum Workers for whose benefit the Association has been founded, do not show their personal interest by joining in larger numbers an organisation intended to promote by every legitimate means their social and professional status, and to secure for them the material advantages to which their labours in the cause of the mentally-afflicted fellow creatures so justly entitle them."

The Report also refers to the two Bills for the State Registration of Trained Nurses now before the House of Commons, and states that the President of the Association, Sir John Batty Tuke, M.D., M.P., has undertaken to watch its interests. The advisability of promoting a separate Bill for the Registration of Mental Nurses has been considered, but the suggestion was not supported by the Parliamentary Committee of the Medico-Psychological Association, who were consulted, and no further action was taken.

A very pleasant meeting took place on Friday, May 12th, at the Chelsea Infirmary by invitation of Miss Barton, to listen to a paper by Miss Mollett on Nursing Ethics. Miss Barton said that Miss Mollett needed no introduction to Chelsea; they were all very pleased to see her there. They had with them also the President of the Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League, members of the St. John's House Nurses' League, and she hoped the President of the Bethnal Green Infirmary Nurses' League. (Miss Dodds and other members of the League arrived shortly afterwards.)

Miss Mollett claimed that nursing made great claims on our higher nature, and as a clergyman who falls short of the ideal expected of him will be judged more hardly than an ordinary member of the public, so with nurses. The nursing of the sick demands unselfishness, patience, kindness, and untiring good nature, and people resent the absence of these qualities in a nurse, however skilful she may be technically. The average woman is very well satisfied with herself, and does not even know that she is selfish, jealous, pleasure-loving and bad-tempered, but she resents these qualities keenly in a nurse—they seem so out of place.

The speaker was amusing as to the Scylla and Charybdis of the private nurse. If she was professional she ran the risk of being dubbed "a good nurse but cold and unsympathetic, a hard woman." If she gave personal sympathy and the patient learned to depend on her, the chances were she provoked the jealousy of the friends, who said she had "gained undue influence over the patient."

Nursing ethics were really nursing good manners and morals. They grew naturally out of a suitable soil, and no amount of training would put into a woman what was not there.

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