

Nursing Echoes.



The statement that the Grand Duchess Serge of Russia has taken the veil and entered a nunnery is incorrect. The fact is that the Grand Duchess Serge is founding an establishment in Moscow corresponding to what we would call a "deaconess" home, the object of which is to supply the population of the poorer quarters of the city with nurses, district visitors, and infant school teachers. The establishment itself consists of a number of houses, comprising the necessary buildings for the nurses, etc., a church, and a residence for her Imperial Highness herself, who will shortly take up her abode there, so as to be more able to superintend everything in connection with the "home," to which she intends to devote her life. The Grand Duchess has not, on the other hand, given up her apartments in her palace.

Through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd-George, a meeting in connection with the Nurses' National Total Abstinence League was held on Friday in last week, at 11, Downing Street, Westminster. Mrs. Lloyd-George personally welcomed each guest. Miss M. E. Docwra, Chairman of the Executive of the Women's Total Abstinence Union, presided, and an address was given by Dr. T. N. Kelynack, Hon. Secretary of the Society for the Study of Inebriety. The Hon. Mrs. Eliot Yorke, President of the League, thanked the host and hostess for their hospitality, and Mrs. Lloyd-George responded in a graceful speech, and subsequently consented to become a Vice-President of the League.

In an interesting article on the "History of the Elementary School Child," the *British Medical Journal* says that "the neglected and verminous state of some of the children is a perpetual heart-break to the teachers, and no efforts in the school can combat it. The school nurse may come in and write any number of cards, and a parent may be forced to get a child bathed at a disinfecting station, but it is soon re-infected in the home. The children are wretched themselves; they infect their companions, and are the despair of their teachers." An example is given of a child in North London with a head in a verminous state, who was given cards by the school nurse at least a dozen times, requesting her to have

it cleansed. The mother objected to having the hair cut, and when on the teacher persisting, she eventually consented, four barbers refused to touch the head, and the teacher had to pay the fifth threepence out of her own pocket. Another mother, who refused to have her child bathed at the disinfecting station, appeared at the school, and was so violent that she had to be removed by a policeman. Our contemporary regards the fines imposed when the parents are sued as "too trifling to matter," and advocates that verminous heads shall be regarded as an infectious disease, and that it shall be as punishable for a parent to send a verminous child to school as one with small-pox. In this way, it believes, the evil would be cured; and that a few committals to gaol instead of trivial fines, would do much.

At the meeting of the Sheffield Queen Victoria District Nursing Association, held last week at the Town Hall, Sheffield, at which Countess Fitzwilliam presided, the Lord Mayor, who moved the adoption of the report, pleaded for an augmentation of income to the extent of £150. During the year the staff of nurses has been increased from 11 to 17, necessitating the acquisition of further accommodation. Three of the additional nurses, by an arrangement with the Education Committee, assist the medical inspectors in the elementary schools, visiting the homes of the children who are sent to school ailing, and helping the mothers in their management. The Committee have experienced an increasing difficulty in obtaining fully trained Queen's Nurses, and the Council have, therefore, given special training in district nursing to some nurses who have passed through the three years' hospital course.

The Petworth Board of Guardians, with many others, are finding the employment of trained nurses in workhouses increasingly necessary. At the last fortnightly meeting one of the Guardians drew attention to the large amount of nursing which had recently had to be done in the Union. The Local Government Board Inspector, Mr. J. W. Thompson, who was present, said it struck him that there was very hard work at Petworth for a person acting as Matron and Nurse. More and more sick and infirm persons were coming into the wards, and there was more need of nurses. He suggested that the Board should take the question of nursing into consideration. There is no question that the sick and infirm in workhouse wards should be in the care of trained nurses.

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