

nection with the Nursing exhibits at the Chicago Exhibition. About 30 caps were received, and the following were selected as the most suitable and becoming head-gear for a Nurse :—

First prize, "The Matrona," made by Miss DELLOW; second do., Matron's Cap, Chelsea Infirmary, Miss DE PLEDGE; third do., Miss BESSIE DELLOW; fourth do., "Sister Dora," Miss MARGARET LONSDALE; fifth do., "The Kate Marsden," Miss KATE MARSDEN; sixth do., "Staff Nurse, Chelsea Infirmary"; seventh do., Private Nurse, Golden Square Hospital, Nurse CATHERINE.

I hear these prize caps will be on view at the Sessional Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, at Hanover Square, to-morrow evening. I feel sure that with the love of dainty garments, inherent in our American cousins, these caps will be greatly admired.

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I REGRET to report the death of Mrs. FIELD, who was, a few years ago, so well known, and so highly esteemed as "Miss BURT, of Guy's." Mrs. FIELD was one of the first Nursing reformers, and left Leicester Infirmary in 1879 to undertake the task of organising the Nursing department at Guy's Hospital. She did magnificent work, and suffered three years of martyrdom. She was a noble woman, and the Nursing world is poorer for her silence now.

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STILL progress in the right direction at "Barts" ! I hear that the salaries of the certificated Nurses are to be substantially increased. Nurses in their fourth year are to receive £30, £35 in their fifth year, and £40 in their sixth year of service. This is good news to Hospital Nurses all over the kingdom, as it is proverbial that what "Barts" does to-day, the sister schools must do to-morrow. How many Nursing schools and institutions have seen the advantage of awarding a medal since St. Bartholomew's set the example ten years ago !

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I OBSERVED in the *Daily Telegraph* last week the following significant paragraph :—

"A Christmas Fair was held in the grounds of a large private residence in the suburbs of Melbourne in aid of the funds of the Home for Trained Nurses, established in 1886, and now under the patronage of the Countess of Hopetoun. All the Nurses on the staff have graduated at the London University College Hospital, the Leeds Royal Infirmary, or some other recognised institution. The Ladies' Committee have established a district nursing branch for the poor, those who can afford it paying the nominal charge of a shilling a week for the attendance of a Nurse during illness in the family, and those who cannot afford it being tended for nothing. There is also a Poor Fund for the relief of the destitute sick. It is the great aim of the ladies to make the Home a branch of the British Nurses' Association, of which H.R.H. Princess CHRISTIAN is president.

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So the R.B.N.A. grows in popularity and influence in various parts of the world.

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I AM not surprised to hear that a very large audience is expected to be present to-morrow (Friday) evening at 20, Hanover Square, at 8 o'clock, to hear Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK's paper on "Nursing at the World's Fair." Considerable curiosity is felt as to how the subject is to be treated, but everyone knows that it will, assuredly, be made highly interesting.

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IT is astonishing how often we have been asked by Nurses, who have been catechized on the subject by patients, whether there is any connection between the consumption of tomatoes and the occurrence of cancer. A good reply to this common rumour appeared in the *Times*, last week, in the shape of the following letter :—

Sir,—There is a very prevalent idea that eating tomatoes is an exciting cause of cancer, and for the last two years we have been so inundated with letters on this subject, that the Medical Committee of the Cancer Hospital would be greatly obliged by your publishing in the *Times* their opinion, viz. : that tomatoes neither predispose to nor excite cancer formation, and that they are not injurious to those suffering from this disease, but, on the contrary, are a very wholesome article of diet, particularly so if cooked. We shall also be obliged by other papers making this generally known.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, ALEX. MARSDEN, M.D.

* * *

A GOOD deal of curiosity is naturally being felt and expressed as to the result of the application for a Royal Charter by the Royal British Nurses' Association, and we are constantly receiving inquiries and letters concerning the matter. I would take this opportunity, therefore, to explain that the Royal Charter was applied for, by the President of the Association, in consequence of the suggestion of Sir MICHAEL HICKS-LEACH, that the Association should apply for an inquiry by the Privy Council into various matters; an inquiry which could only be obtained by seeking for a Royal Charter; that the Charter only confers the rights and privileges of incorporation, which any seven British subjects can obtain by paying certain fees, and depositing certain documents at Somerset House, provided they take a corporate title, to which the word "Limited" is affixed; and that the Association could immediately have obtained such incorporation, except for the fact that, having the title of "Royal," and having, as its gracious President, a member of the Royal Family, it could not take the addition of the word "Limited" to its name, and so be classed as a trading body; and that the Association having applied to the Board of Trade

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