

I mention these facts because a Medical Certificate of still-birth should give data regarding the sex, age, and legitimacy of still-births, as well as of the age, name, and nationality of the parents.

As regards the number of still-born children registered in other countries, I have to thank the various Consuls resident abroad for some valuable facts. Since then the Parliamentary Return No. 279, July 21, 1893—relating to "Still-births in England and other Countries," has been issued. This Return was moved for by Viscount Grimston, M.P., and I have to thank Dr. Lovell Drage for his help in aiding me to obtain it. In Denmark, during the year 1890, 1,933 still-births were registered; in Sweden, 3,577; in Switzerland, 3,072; in Norway, 1,657; in Italy, 42,117; in Spain, 7,830; in France, 40,535; in Prussia, 42,084; in the Duchy Hesse, 1,159; in Saxony, 5,147; in Austria, 6,147; and in South Carolina, 39 white, and 69 coloured infants. It must be noted that in France, Italy, and Austria all those children who, although live-born, have not been registered as births previous to their death, are classified as still-births. It is a strange system of work, but I suppose it is framed so as to include all premature and immature infants who may live for less than 24 to 48 hours. It is, however, a bad system, and I hope it will not be followed by our legislators.

Is the criminally causing of children to be still-born frequent?

Coroner Braxton Hicks says many children who are termed still-born are not really so, but have been born alive and died soon after, sometimes from natural causes, but also from suffocation and other illegal means. In fact, it is to be feared that many children termed still-born, are disposed of in other ways. Tidy, in his "Legal Medicine," says, so notorious is it that a large number of these cases could be averted, that some legislation is urgently needed. Stevenson, in his "Medical Jurisprudence," says, there is reason to believe that the non-registration of births of children born dead, leads to many being disposed of as still-born, which, in reality, came living into the world, but have died from neglect, exposure, or violence. In the Return already referred to, the then Secretary of State makes the following pointed remarks:—"The Secretary of State has reason to believe that in some places the practice prevails of entering in the Cemetery Book, as still-born, children who have survived their birth by only a few hours, and over whose body no religious service has been performed." This is very likely, because how can some Parish Sexton—who can probably not even read—tell whether the child brought for burial has been either still-born or murdered? It has been stated that a still-born child can be interred for 1s. 6d., while a regular funeral will cost £2 to £3,

(To be continued.)

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



THE *Pall Mall Gazette* which is evidently up to date in Hospital matters—and it is to be congratulated upon having "broken the conspiracy of silence" into which the "dailies" appear to have lapsed, concerning Institutions supported by public contributions—says:—"In the *Nouvelle Revue* of the current month, M<sup>me</sup>. Hélène Lascaris gives an interesting account of the Evangelismos Hospital at Athens, a charitable Institution founded and managed by the Queen of Greece herself. Till Queen Olga took the matter in hand, some fifteen years ago, there seems to have been no nursing Institutions in Greece. A few Athenian Mrs. Gamps had it all their own way in the houses of the sick rich, while the poor were either nursed by their own friends or left to die uncared for and neglected. Through the Greek Metropolitan an appeal was made in all the churches, with a view to collecting sufficient funds to start a central Infirmary, but the Queen was beginning to despair of ever being able to carry out her scheme, when a wealthy merchant of Odessa, Theodoris by name, died, leaving 130,000 drachmas, which he ordered were to be spent exclusively on the creation of a charitable or philanthropic Greek Institution. His executors asked the Queen to dispose of the money as she thought best, and this is why the right wing of the Evangelismos is known as the Theodoris."

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"THE first stone was laid by the King in April, 1884; now the Hospital can accommodate 130 in and about 60 out-patients. Although all the Nurses belong to the Greek church, no proselytising is allowed, and ministers of all denominations are admitted to the wards. The Council of administration is composed of seven ladies, each a well-known member of Athenian Society; they meet at least once a week and take, turn and turn about, the duty of spending one morning a week in the Hospital, hearing complaints and seeing that all goes well, while not the least important of their functions is that of inspecting all the food and gifts sent in."

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