

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



DR. BEZLEY-THORNE, the Medical Hon. Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, will read a Paper on the work and aims of the Association at the forthcoming International Congress of Hygiene & Demography, to be held at Budapest next month.

THE Tropical Section promises to be very successful as Miss FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, one of the hon-presidents of the section, has promised to send a communication on "Village Sanitation in India." Dr. AYRES, the principal medical officer of the Government at Hong Kong, will contribute a report on the plague; and Dr. SIMPSON, of Calcutta, and M. HAFBRINE, have an important Paper on "Coma Bacilli of Cholera."

A PRIVATE Nurse, hurrying to an urgent case in the country, met with an unfortunate experience a few days ago at Paddington Station. She drove up some twenty minutes before her train was timed to depart, together with her luggage, which consisted of a small portmanteau containing her ordinary apparel, and a very neat compressed cane trunk which she always devotes to the enshrinement of her dainty uniform dresses and creaseless caps, aprons, and collars. She consigned these worldly belongings to a porter while she went into the refreshment room for the proverbial cup of tea, after which she strolled round to the bookstall to select an amusing paper, and to have a look at the latest editions. Her mind was quite tranquil in the belief that, meanwhile, the smart-looking porter was faithfully labelling her property, and that he was busying himself in depositing her wraps in the cosy corner seat she had tipped him to retain for her use. A few minutes later, and the Nurse was wildly telegraphing in all directions. Her rug was in its place, a small handbag was in the rack, her portmanteau was on the platform—but the trunk—the trunk containing her clean caps, her soft shoes, her chatelaine, in short, her nursing gear, was being whirled away at the rate of sixty miles an hour in a wrong direction, and for the life of him, the porter "couldn't just remember, Miss, *which* label he had put on that little trunk."

AND the poor Nurse, mentally vowing that she would, on her next journey, "just sit on that little

trunk till the train was ready," departed into the country minus her outfit, with only a crumb of comfort in the conviction that the Superintendent of the Home to which she belongs would borrow some necessaries for her, and send them on by the most express route she could select.

IN a divorce case tried some days ago, two women, one described as a Nurse and the other as a Masseuse, were presented in a most disreputable light. The evidence was conclusive as to the guilt of both. It now remains for us to ask how much longer such women shall be allowed to disgrace the profession. It is conceded that very shady persons masquerade as Nurses, and, no doubt, these two women were of that class. But that does not help us. In the eyes of the public these two women are Nurses, and the honourable ones have to share the shame of the "black sheep." The time is surely now at hand when Registration should be made compulsory, and a legal Roll established by Parliament, from which any woman proved guilty of bad conduct may be "struck off," as is done in the legal and medical professions.

IN view of the recent disclosures regarding some bogus massage establishments, it is surely time that a Register of Masseurs and Masseuses were formed, so as to separate the chaff from the wheat. Mr. Stead, in his "If Christ came to Chicago," makes no mention of the evil part played in the sins of that great city by the masseuse and the massage establishment. In Chicago, few respectable women would avow themselves as practisers of the art of massage; such bad repute being always associated with the name. To judge from some of the advertisements relating to massage which appear every day in our papers, the evil of Chicago seems to threaten us; and the reliable masseuse will soon find herself in a very unjust position unless some stringent measures be taken to register the qualified and respectable, and to winnow out the unworthy.

OUR esteemed and influential contemporary, the *Provincial Medical Journal*, which has always supported trained Nurses, has the following sensible note in its August issue on the Midwives' question:

"Midwifery by some is considered to be a difficult art, and even natural labour, according to some, requires for its successful issue a high degree of training. Educated medical men may be obtained by almost every woman in the country for a nominal fee, or at the expense of the State; the technical training of medical men extends over a period of three, four, or five years. Midwifery according to others may be learnt in a few months, and natural labour may be entrusted to the rule-of-thumb practitioners known as midwives. We are in favour of the improved education of obstetric Nurses, but we demand no less than three years' training. We recognise the necessity of after-nursing, but we certainly do not see our way to support an inferior order of practitioners for the parturient, and the scheme as it stands appears to us in the highest degree defective."

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