

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



THE Eighth International Hygienic Congress was formally opened, on the 2nd instant, at Buda-Pesth, by the Archduke CARL LUDWIG, supported by several of the Ministers, the Burgomaster, and several other dignitaries, and settled down to practical work on Monday, when all the 19 Sections assembled. One of the earliest papers read was that written by Her Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN, as President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, on the care of the sick and the extension of sanitary and hygienic knowledge in Great Britain during recent years. Princess CHRISTIAN was not present, and Dr. BEZLY-THORNE, the Medical Hon. Sec., who had been deputed as a delegate by the Association to the Congress, had the honour of reading the paper. The subject dealt with was the great importance of Nurses of the sick undergoing special education and training. Her Royal Highness stated that in this direction steady and encouraging progress was being made in the United Kingdom, and that no hospital of importance was now considered complete without a training school for Nurses. The Princess recapitulated the work of the Royal British Nurses' Association, mentioning that the Nursing register now bore upon the roll the names of 2,000 trained Nurses, nearly all of whom had undergone three years' probation. She described the curriculum, and expressed the hope that the time was not far distant when the State would see the importance of recognising a definite diploma of nursing, and giving an official sanction to the maintenance of the register. She further referred to the scheme of organising a volunteer reserve of trained Nurses for service in the Army, which would be held in readiness for the service of the State at seven days' notice. Princess CHRISTIAN, in conclusion, emphasized the fact that Nurses must also be good women in the highest and best sense of the word. Other papers on the same subject were read by German and Hungarian delegates. They related principally to Nursing on the field of battle.

A PAPER entitled "Village Sanitation in India," prepared by Miss FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, was on the Agenda for the Third Section, and in her unavoidable absence, was read for her.

THE Workhouse Infirmary Nursing question is always with us, and, just now, we hope "it has come to stay" until it has been satisfactorily solved.

WE hear so many complaints that Nurses are unable to obtain employment, and that others, although wishing to undertake the work, are unable to obtain training, that we think it cannot be generally known that the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association has many more applications for Nurses to organise or to work in country Infirmarys than it can supply. *Christian Life* says:—

"Surely among the thousands of Nurses in Britain there must be many who are called to be servants of the poor, as well as servants of the sick. Where the ranks are thinnest; where your way will not lie over the asphalt of use and wont, but in the rough path of the pioneer. Nothing second-rate will do there. The Nurse who goes to introduce, in her person, skilled Nursing at the small village union, has no small responsibility. She is a standard bearer to the front."

MISS EMILY FAITHFUL writes in the *Lady's Pictorial* on this subject:—

"How much the services of educated, tender-hearted women are needed in relation to our Workhouses, cannot be proved more conclusively than by a letter from Dr. Rhodes, Chairman of the Northern Workhouse Nursing Association, who declares that the pathetic poem, 'He's only a pauper whom nobody owns,' is as much the keynote to the treatment of the poor in some of our Workhouses to-day, and is as true now as it was when it was written, not only regarding the dead, but, unfortunately, the living. He admits that the public conscience has been aroused, and that a strong desire now exists to make our Workhouse Infirmarys worthy of being what they really are—the State Hospitals of England. This is the aim and object of the Northern Workhouse Nursing Association, and they hope to accomplish it by providing trained Nurses thoroughly acquainted with the duties in a Workhouse. The Association has already sent out twenty-three trained Nurses to Unions, and only in one instance was there any friction between the Guardians and the Association. Every humane person will be disgusted that such should be the case when I record the astounding fact that in one Union the stove upon which the Nurses cooked their food was in their bedroom, and the paupers' bathroom answered the double purpose of a pantry to keep their food—'such as it was,' adds Mr. Rhodes. The cleanliness of this establishment may be judged from the fact that one Nurse was considered extravagant because she wanted the counterpanes of the ward to be washed once in three months, on hygienic grounds, and complained that the sheets washed in the patients' lavatories were dried at night in the patients' day-room, and that hot water was only available for the bathrooms once a week. Such matters may escape the ordinary Board of Guardians, but a lady would soon detect such horrors, and insist on having a different state of affairs."

"But I shall quote the conclusion of Dr. Rhodes' important letter. He states, and from what has come under my own personal notice I can confirm it:—

'Not long since a very experienced union clerk expressed the opinion that the greatest impediments to the employment of trained Nurses in Workhouses are the Master and Matron. In some of the large workhouses the persons occupying the positions named are ladies and gentlemen, but even then it is only in very rare cases that the Matron understands anything

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