

A few were, to their very great disappointment, at the last moment prevented from attending, having cases of sickness on hand which could not be safely left. The Council thank these Nurses for their self-denying devotion to the sick poor.

The necessity for careful nursing in sickness of the suffering poor in their own homes, cannot fail to claim the attention which it deserves, seeing that Her Majesty has given such public expression of her approval of the work which her Nurses "are doing and will continue to do."

I am, Madam,
Your obedient servant,
ARTHUR L. B. PEILE,
Master of St. Katharine's, President.

A Dangerous Precedent.

MRS. JANE BRYANT, who was summoned at the Gloucester Police-court for neglecting to have her three children vaccinated, said she objected to the present system, which was not vaccination but inoculation. She said she could herself perform the operation of vaccination—Dr. Jenner's system—on her children, and asked whether, if she did so, it would be recognised as fulfilling the requirements of the law. The magistrate told her, "If she vaccinated the children herself and obtained a medical certificate that the operation had been successfully performed, it would doubtless be sufficient."

Pretoria Hospital.

A GRACEFUL acknowledgment of President Kruger's magnanimity in releasing the Reform prisoners is being made by the raising of a public subscription which is to be devoted to adding a large wing to the People's Hospital at Pretoria. The wing is to be named after Madame Kruger.

Notice to the Public.

THOSE of our readers who may experience any difficulty in obtaining a copy of the NURSING RECORD are requested to communicate directly with the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., giving name of the Local Newsagent, and if possible of the London Agent through whom he gets his supply. As we receive many complaints from correspondents that they are unable to purchase copies of the NURSING RECORD at some of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's bookstalls, we must ask them to write to the Editor stating name of stall, date, and time at which they were unable to obtain a copy.

Hospital Mortuaries.

WHEN the Editor asked me to visit some of the Mortuaries of our London Hospitals I must confess to wondering how the request to do so would be received by the Hospital authorities. Any doubts I had, however, were speedily dispelled by the kind reception I met with on all sides, and I take this opportunity of thanking those Matrons and Secretaries who, most kindly and courteously, afforded me every facility for gaining the information I sought. The Mildmay Mission Hospital at Bethnal Green had so impressed me on a former occasion with its refinements and attention to details that I went there first, thinking that probably their Mortuary arrangements would be above the average. It was not here, however, that I found my ideal. I *did* find it in the course of my wanderings, but where shall be noted in due course. At the Mildmay Hospital there is nothing to offend one. The Mortuary is clean and sanitary, the bodies being laid on slate slabs, but so far no special efforts have been made to beautify it, though doubtless this will come in time. I next went to "Freidenheim," the Home for the Dying, at Hampstead. Here considerable care and thought have been expended upon the arrangements for the disposal of the dead until their removal. A room has been set apart which is furnished simply with two iron bedsteads; these are made up as ordinary beds, the covering in place of the usual quilt being a violet pall, round the margin of which runs a white border, upon which appropriate texts are worked. The walls look clean and bright with their dado of tiles, and above the tiles, on a washable background, are painted texts of a suitable nature. The arrangements gave one the impression that the dead were reverently cared for, and the Lady Superintendent confirmed this by saying that the mortuary had its effect even upon the undertakers. Formerly they used to come in, in a business-like way, with their hats on. Now they remove their hats and speak in subdued voices.

At Guy's Hospital there is a tiny Mortuary which strikes one at once as being under the care of one of the nursing staff. There is a bier, covered by a cradle, and a red-and-white washing pall, and over this is a shelf on which are placed a cross, fresh flowers, and candles. The arrangement so far as it goes is admirable, but the obvious fact strikes one that this Mortuary only contains room for one body, and that there must frequently be many in a Hospital of this size. The Sister who acted as my guide kindly explained their arrangements. The bodies are taken down to a large Mortuary in the first

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