

Nursing Echoes.

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ENGLAND is rejoicing in the splendid victory gained by British troops in the Soudan. But the pity of it! To those whose nearest and dearest have been done to death by the bullets and spears of the desert dervishes the rejoicing is overshadowed by lifelong sorrow; and the inevitable question forces itself home—Is there no way of settling national differences but by cold steel? The one consolation will be that those who fell died as heroes, notably Captain Urquhart, who, when mortally wounded, said to his troops, "Never mind me, lads; go on." This is surely the spirit which should animate those who fight all battles, whether civil or military.

THE arrangements made for the wounded appear to be excellent. All are now in hut hospitals on the Nile at Atbara Camp. It is good news that all the most serious cases are improving, and nearly all the bullets have now been extracted. Boats are ready to convey the wounded to Gennanetti, and all the provisions made for their comfort are said to be most satisfactory.

IN last week's *British Medical Journal*, Dr. Lombe Atthill, in writing on the Registration of Midwives, says:—

"I contend that every one of these women should be trained as nurses and as midwives. If they are not, it is the fault of those who undertake to teach them. The Rotunda Hospital was, amongst other things, specially founded to train women, and for one hundred and fifty years has continuously done so, but they have been invariably trained as midwives and as midwifery nurses, and in the certificates given to them they are expressly described as "midwives and nurse tenders," "nurse tender" being the term synonymous with "monthly nurse." These women receive a training which certainly is not inferior, most probably much superior, to that attainable elsewhere, yet during my long professional life I never met one capable of acting "independently." They are fully competent to act as midwives in natural cases, generally capable of detecting abnormal presentations, etc., and are trained to, and invariably do, send for aid when that is needed. But they are more-over good nurses, and tend their patients as such for some days subsequent to labour. Why then is this impracticable in England? Are the women more stupid, or the teachers less efficient? But be the cause what it may, the lying-in women must suffer. The

dangers of parturition do not end with delivery. Many, very many, lives, both those of mothers and infants, are lost from causes arising, subsequently, from mere want of cleanliness, from septic poison, from the use of septic clothes applied to the vulva, specially where laceration has occurred, etc., from the failure of the attendant to recognize at an early stage symptoms which, had it been otherwise, might have led to treatment ere it was too late, not to speak of minor ills so numerous and so distressing to the mother and to the child. I hold that no woman should be registered as a "midwife" who has not also been trained as a "midwifery nurse." It is on this point mainly I am at variance with the promoters of the Bill. If they really desire to benefit lying-in women, they will accept that as a cardinal principle."

WE go even further than Dr. Atthill, and while quite agreeing with his "cardinal principle," are of opinion that the only satisfactory solution to this great professional difficulty, is that all women who attend lying-in-women, should do so as Registered Nurses—after passing through a well defined curriculum of training for three years, to include at least six month's experience in midwifery and maternity nursing—such nurses to be entitled to be termed Obstetric Nurses. It is not so much now a question of *name*, as experience, education, and qualification. The practice of midwifery by women cannot be abolished without injustice and injury to poor lying-in women.

WE hope that the Victorian Order of Nurses, which has recently been inaugurated in Canada under such happy auspices, has a useful and prosperous career before it. It is fortunate in having for its first president so wise and able a leader as the Countess of Aberdeen. Under her direction the new order is already evidencing its vigour by its public spirited action in despatching nurses to Klondyke. That the Order should have recognized and fulfilled its duty thus early in its career is a happy augury of its future usefulness.

LADY ABERDEEN writes:—"The Government are affording us all possible facilities and assistance, and the nurses will be under the special protection of the North-West Mounted Police. But it is estimated that the outfit, the year's provisions, and the medical appliances for each nurse will not come less than a thousand dollars. And then we must guarantee their salaries, although we fully believe that the patients will be willing to give ample remuneration for the nurses' services, and that once on the spot the Victorian Order will not lack for means for prosecuting and developing its work. Those devoted women fear not to face the perils and privations which their mission must necessarily impose on them. On the contrary, they rejoice at such an opportunity being afforded so soon to the Victorian Order to show what nurses may do for suffering humanity under the most adverse

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