

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG is to preside to-day at a meeting of the Victoria Society for Nursing the Sick in Gosport and Alverstoke, of which society her Royal Highness is president.

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WE should advise the reputable members of the Royal British Nurses' Association to make some inquiry concerning

Miss Mary Wilberforce, described as a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, in a letter recently addressed to the *Times*, concerning her expulsion from Cuba. We only know of one nurse of this name belonging to the Royal British Nurses' Association, and it was proposed, in 1894, that she should be called upon to resign, but no action was taken. The Honorary Officers do not apparently consider it their duty to propose the removal of undesirable persons from the roll of members. It is time the members themselves took this matter into their consideration, because it does not redound to their credit to be associated with persons who have more than once been in prison.

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FROM an unfortunate mistake which has occurred at the North Eastern Hospital for children, Shoreditch, Nurses will do well to take to heart the lesson of practising always exceeding carefulness when a body is removed from a mortuary. We have previously expressed our opinion that a body should never be sent away from a hospital mortuary without the attendance at the time of a member of the Nursing staff, and this, we are glad to find is a rule of the North Eastern Children's Hospital. The Matron was present when the undertaker came to fetch away the body of a female child named Tuckwell, but by some mistake the porter handed over the body of a male child. The mother apparently had doubts about the child when she saw it, but her husband thought it was their own. It was not until four days afterwards, when she received a communication from the Matron, who apparently, eventually, discovered the mistake, that the mother's fears were confirmed. Happily, the funeral had not taken place, and an exchange was effected. It is scarcely possible to be too careful about mortuary arrangements,

THE Fishmonger's Company give a donation of 100 guineas a year to the Benson District Nursing Home, Camberwell, in order that the poor on their Walworth estate may have the care of a properly trained and qualified nurse.

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AN inquest was recently held before Mr. A. Holmes, the Salford Borough Coroner, respecting the death of Jane Spruce, of Pendleton. Her son gave evidence that the deceased woman had suffered from rheumatism for the last ten years, and was removed to the Hope Union Infirmary at her own request on the 26th July. Later in the day, when he visited her, his mother seemed restless, and wanted to be taken home again. She said that "they" (meaning the nurses) "were not doing right by her." On the following two days he visited deceased, and on the 29th took her home in a cab. She then said, alluding to the nurses, "Those brutes have hurt my back." On Saturday morning witness sent for a doctor, and in his presence his mother told the doctor that a nurse at Hope had knocked out one of her front teeth and abused her. He noticed that one of the front teeth was missing. Other evidence was given that the deceased woman complained of the cruelty of the nurses. Dr. Tarry deposed to visiting the deceased, and seeing two bruises on the leg. She died from failure of the heart's action and exhaustion. If she had been illtreated as alleged, such treatment would tend to accelerate her death. The Coroner adjourned the inquiry, in order that the Hope Infirmary might be represented. The institution was doing a great deal of good, and it was a pity statements should be made if they had no foundation. The jury ought to hear what was to be said on behalf of the Infirmary Nurses.

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AT the adjourned inquiry, Miss Ruth Jane Rowbottom, charge nurse at the Infirmary, went into the witness box and gave evidence which so completely satisfied the jury as to the treatment the patient had received, that the foreman expressed the opinion that it was quite unnecessary to hear the evidence of the other nurses who were in attendance. The evidence of the Resident Medical Officer was taken, and also that of an inmate who occupied the next bed to the deceased woman, and who stated that she received nothing but kindness, and was treated with the greatest care and attention by the nurses. The Coroner exonerated the nurses from all blame, and the jury concurred in the Coroner's remarks, and in returning a verdict of death from natural causes, expressed the opinion that there was no ground whatever for the charges made against the nurses.

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WE are glad to see that the guardians of the Aston Board of Guardians propose to re-organise

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