

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*\*\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE Committee and subscribers of the Queen's Commemoration Fund and the Finance Committee of the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses held a joint meeting at Grosvenor House recently, the Hon. Sydney Holland in the chair. It was announced that since the meeting in March last nearly £3,000 more had been paid into the Fund, and that

by the music hall *matinées* which had been inaugurated in London and the Provinces by a special music hall committee it was hoped to obtain an income of at least £1,000 per annum. Thanks were accorded to the organisers of the *matinée* held on November 10th at the Empire Music Hall. It was decided that the Queen's Commemoration Fund should continue its efforts on behalf of the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and that an annual meeting should be held, if possible, at the Mansion House, to further the interests of the charity.

THE request of the medical superintendent of the Camberwell Infirmary for an articulated skeleton for teaching purposes in the nursing school, has prompted the *Evening News* to present the Camberwell Guardians with a very interesting report on the price of human bones.

A REPRESENTATIVE of the *Evening News* has been making enquiries concerning the trade in these gruesome objects, and has found that if you want an articulated skeleton of the very finest quality, you must pay ten guineas for it. There are, however, six qualities, and prices range from five pounds ten shillings up to the figure mentioned. It was Mr. H. C. Lawley, of the old firm of Millikin and Lawley, of the Strand, who supplied these figures. An articulated skeleton is one properly fixed up with all the bones fastened together with catgut, whilst a disarticulated one is merely a set of loose bones in a box.

The demand, as may be imagined, is almost exclusively from medical students.

The points of a good skeleton are—first, the size and development of the bones, and then their whiteness and freedom from grease, indicating that the processes of preparation have been properly carried out. It is the skeleton of the

male adult which is most in demand. Others are only required for the purposes of comparison and special studies, but the enterprising skeleton merchant keeps all kinds in stock.

Where do all these skeletons come from, you may ask? Most people have a notion that they are the bones of paupers and such like, but as a matter of fact they tell you in the trade no skeletons are ever prepared for sale in this country. They are imported from factories abroad, chiefly from Germany, France, and Austria. There is not much difference in the quality, but as a rule the German makes the best skeleton for the purposes of the British medical student, because the German cranium is most like the Britisher's.

Quite a big trade is done in them. It is steady and prices are constant, so that when the skeleton man has built up his business he has got something he may depend upon.

THE nursing of special hospitals is, at the present time, a matter of considerable anxiety to those who are responsible for the efficient organization of the nursing departments of these institutions. On all sides we hear the same thing, the difficulty of obtaining and keeping suitable nurses.

THEORETICALLY, certainly special hospitals should be nursed by certificated nurses. But, then, two points are at once apparent. Firstly, the hospitals are for the most part poor, and the nursing would cost more if only certificated nurses were employed; and, secondly, the difficulty of holding out sufficient inducements to obtain and retain the services of well trained nurses.

SOME of the special hospitals no doubt afford valuable supplementary education. For instance, many, perhaps the majority of nurses, go through their three years' training without receiving any education in the nursing of obstetric or ophthalmic cases, and experience in these branches of work would be most valuable as supplementary education. Unfortunately, many lying-in hospitals are nursed largely by pupils who have received no previous training, but who, for the instruction they receive, are willing to pay fees which trained nurses frequently cannot afford, but there can be no doubt that it would be for the well-being of the lying-in hospitals, as well as of the general hospitals, if the two could be affiliated.

THE special hospitals which present exceptional difficulties are such as consumption and orthopaedic hospitals. Nurses usually see sufficient cases of this description during their training, to enable them to nurse them subsequently, and there is no inducement to them to enter special

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)