

Nursing Echoes.

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PRINCESS LOUISE, Marchioness of Lorne, paid a visit on Friday to the headquarters of the Scottish branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for nurses in Edinburgh, and presented badges and certificates to nurses trained in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, and Aberdeen. Lord Lorne took the opportunity of saying that some words he had

used on the visit of the Princess and himself last year to Edinburgh had been misinterpreted in London with reference to the sending of money to London to be redistributed in Scotland. It had not been his intention to convey the impression that they had been sending money for English purposes to the detriment of Scottish requirements, because the fact was they got back the money with interest. He thought the central committee in London deserved their hearty thanks for the liberal manner in which they had dealt with the Scottish branch.

PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG will open the Jubilee Nurses' Institute at Romsey, early in January next.

THE Empress Frederick of Germany, last week, visited the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, Bloomsbury. Her Majesty was received by Mr. Arthur Lucas, chairman of the hospital, Mr. John Murray, vice-chairman, and Dr. Barlow, senior physician, and inspected the plans for the nurses' new Home, with which she expressed satisfaction.

MISS AMY HUGHES, Lady Superintendent of the Nurses' Co-operation, has been requested by the Council of the Midwives Institute to allow herself to be nominated as President of the Society for 1899. Miss Hughes has acceded to the request, and has consented to stand for election, so that her appointment is, we should imagine, a foregone conclusion.

MISS HUGHES will accept much responsibility in accepting office at this crisis in the history of the status of midwives, as the question of their future position in the body politic is now under

the consideration of the General Medical Council, which, at its recent sitting, accepted and entered on the minutes a report by the Committee appointed, on May 25th last, to confer with delegates from a Committee of the promoters of the Midwives' Bill, together with an appendix containing a report of the proceedings at the Conference on June 25th last.

It appears that the delegates of the Midwives' Bill have in the abstract accepted the principle of licensing midwives instead of their Registration. This is an extremely important step, and one which we can hardly imagine will satisfy thoroughly qualified midwives, especially as so far as we gather, the proposed Midwives' Board, is to be composed absolutely of medical practitioners, and excludes all representation of the midwives themselves. We hear that grave dissatisfaction is already aroused in the minds of those promoters of the policy of Registration of Midwives, who realise that to put these women absolutely under the control of an enfranchised and legally constituted profession of men, in economic competition with them, is to place midwives in an altogether unjustifiable and helpless position. We are of opinion that such restrictive legislation is dangerous to the liberty of the subject, and hope sincerely some *modus vivendi* will be found by which thoroughly trained and efficient midwives will participate in the government of their own profession.

WE have of course been accused of ignorance, personal feeling, and other undesirable motives, in criticising as we have done in the interests of nurses, the scale of charges demanded by the Royal National Pension Fund, so that it may interest our readers to read a quotation from a reliable financial paper, in reference to a Paper read by Sir Henry Burdett on Old Age Pensions before the Royal Statistical Society.

Says the *Commercial World*:—
"Throughout the entire paper we fail to find a single new idea or argument on the subject of Old Age Pensions worthy the least serious consideration.

In the first paragraph the author parades, and takes credit for, the scheme known as the "Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses." Now we know of no body of workers more entitled to our sympathies and benevolent considerations than these womenfolk, and naturally high patronage and handsome donations have been allotted the Fund. In this respect the profession is to be most heartily congratulated. But what is this great Pension Scheme in itself? The premium rates are considerably higher than any others we know of, and it would appear that the Nurses pay con-

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