

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* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



WE acknowledge with gratitude the following subscriptions for Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest for Nurses at Brighton:—Mrs. Henry Willett, £1 rs.; Miss Isabel Whitaker, £1 rs.; and 5s. from nurse visitors through Mrs. McIntyre.

ON Tuesday last, her Excellency the Countess Cadogan presented badges to the nurses connected with the Queen's Jubilee Institute, at the Viceregal Lodge.

THE Colonial Nursing Association has decided that all nurses sent abroad under its auspices must satisfy a medical officer, connected with the Colonial Office, of their fitness as regards health. This is a wise and important provision. Tropical climates, to which many of the nurses of the Colonial Nursing Association are sent, are trying even to those of strong and sound constitutions, while delicacy or weakness is apt to be speedily manifested, causing great anxiety to those responsible, and, perhaps, necessitating the return home of the nurse. All this, of course, means much expense. The Association is, therefore, from all points of view, acting wisely in insisting on a medical certificate of health.

"THE native soldiers," says the *Indian Medical Record*, "who have acted and are still acting as ward-orderlies in plague hospitals, have done very valuable service to the country in a great emergency. These men come forward as volunteers for a duty which, for a native, involves considerable risk. The duties that they perform and the risks they run, cannot fairly be compared with those of soldiers who volunteer merely for sanitary work and have not the same close continued contact with plague-stricken people as ward-orderlies have. As the men have worked for the good of the community at large, the Government of India has sanctioned, as a special case, the same concessions to the families of native soldiers acting as ward-orderlies in plague hospitals who die

of plague, as were granted to the families of soldiers dying on foreign service on the ground that the duties on which those men are employed are not those for which they are attested."

AT an enquiry, recently held at Battersea, into the death of an infant from convulsions, the Coroner elicited from the "midwife" who attended the mother that she was in the habit of putting babies' heads into shape and making them "nice and round," by means of employing a little gentle pressure. Dr. F. C. Kempster said "a great many midwives pressed children's heads into shape thinking it did good, but it was a mistaken idea; it was a most dangerous thing to do." It would be interesting to know what qualifications the "midwife" who adopts this practice possesses. It is, of course, well enough known that this is a common custom with ignorant women, who act as midwives to their neighbours, as is also giving newly-born infants boluses of butter and sugar, spoonfuls of the mother's gruel, and many other undesirable and dangerous practices; but women trained in their work know better than to employ these methods. It is an injustice to competent midwives that they cannot dissociate themselves from those who are absolutely ignorant. The sooner we have a Bill for the registration of medical, surgical, and obstetrical nurses the better. Medical men are protected by their professional register; why not nurses, and what is a fully qualified midwife but an obstetric nurse?

AT a meeting of Medical Practitioners of Malvern, held at the Lyttelton Committee Room, on 14th of this month, it was unanimously resolved:—(1) That this meeting of Medical Practitioners of the Malvern District, after careful enquiry, is of opinion that the present system of District Nursing is unsatisfactory and open to great abuse, urgently needing re-organization. (2) That the District Nursing of Great Malvern should be under the control of a committee of the subscribers, on which the Medical Profession should be adequately represented. (3) That if the co-operation of the other districts can be secured this meeting believes greater efficiency and economy would be obtained by the formation of district committees, from which would be elected representatives to serve on a central committee.

WE fully endorse the opinion of the Medical Practitioners of Malvern that the subscribers who support the District Nursing Association should have a voice in its management, and that the

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