

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 to Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest for Nurses, at Brighton:—Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild, £1 rs. od., and R. Tooth, Esq., £1 rs. od.

WE have received a copy of the first volume of the book on "Practical Nursing," to which many nurses have for long been looking forward with keen anticipation, by Miss Isla Stewart, the Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Chairman of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and Dr. Herbert Cuff, F.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent of the North Eastern Fever Hospital. We hope to give a full review of this book in our next issue, and regret that want of space prevents our doing so this week.

IN his introductory address, at the re-opening of the Charing Cross Medical School, Dr. Mitchell Bruce emphasised the necessity for sanitation, and said that, to most people, the word "sanitation" conveyed the notion only of drains. How few windows were to be seen open. He often wished, when he entered the sick room of a poor person smitten down with typhoid fever or consumption, and read the illuminated texts over the bed, that there were written up a few sanitary commandments such as "Cleanliness is next to godliness," or the words of the immortal Florence Nightingale, "Windows are made to open; doors are made to shut." Perhaps no class of persons are a greater power for good in effecting sanitation than district nurses. The improved condition of the dwellings of the poor at the present time is greatly due to their influence.

IT is reported that "ladies of title and distinction" are offering their services in the Transvaal, and one of them is going so far as to "take lessons in nursing." The motive that inspires these ladies is, no doubt, excellent, but what our soldiers need, and are entitled to, when sick and wounded, is skilled and efficient nursing—not amateur philanthropy, however well meaning. "Ladies of title and distinction," in common with those of more ordinary clay, can only become efficient nurses by prolonged application and hard work. Sentimentalism and

amateur assistance are out of place amid the stern horrors of war.

THE *Westminster Gazette* has, as usual, some excellent cartoons on the present crisis. One which will appeal to nurses is that of Mr. Kruger as a patient, with Nurse Chamberlain in charge. Nurse Chamberlain, by the way, is a most forbidding-looking person, sharp-featured and acid, just the stamp of woman one would prefer not to nurse one. Her patient is sitting in a chair, with an expression of extreme obstinacy, in which there is, nevertheless, a suspicion of irresolution, on his face. Set down on the floor in front of him (surely Nurse Chamberlain might have provided him with a table) is a glass containing a disagreeable-looking compound. Nurse Chamberlain has turned her back on her obstreperous patient in a huff, and, with her nose in the air, her cap-strings flying, and her chatelaine evidently rattling, she goes off saying "Well, I've told you there is no suzerainty in it; and if you won't drink this I must go and get another prescription made up which won't be nearly so nice." We hope succeeding generations who inspect this cartoon will not take Nurse Chamberlain as a type of the present-day nurse.

THE Infirmary Committee of the Kensington Guardians have reported to the Board that Dr. Potter has made a full investigation into the death of the child who recently died from suffocation while the nurse, who had tied it in bed, was out of the room. He was of opinion that so long as the staff was not sufficiently numerous to prevent a ward being left occasionally unattended, some means must be taken to prevent a restless child falling out of bed.

OF this there can be no doubt, but at the same time, in a public institution which assumes the responsibility of caring for the sick, a children's ward should never be left alone, even while the nurses are at meals, and if only one nurse is on duty, that nurse should be a certified one. In the present case, the ward was, apparently, in the charge of a new probationer, who thought she had tied the patient a better way than was customary. As a matter of fact, she had put a halter round its neck which, became tightened by the restlessness of the child, and strangled it, while the nurse had gone to fetch its dinner. If a child is tied in its cot, it must be by a fastening attached to a band round the waist, or else armlets, connected by a soft band across the chest, should be placed in position, and a webbing band passed through these and tied under the cot will effectively and safely keep the little patient in bed.

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