

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*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 will distribute badges and certificates to Queen's Nurses at the London Scottish Drill Hall, Buckingham Gate, S.W., on Thursday, July 5th, at 3 p.m.

DEATH has resulted so often to poor little children in our hospitals, as a fatal result of "tying in bed," that the repetition of this disaster at a London infirmary during the past week is naturally shocking to the community, and as these accidents are easily preventable by applying the right methods of restriction, by the use of the comfortable shoulder straps, in vogue at most of our Children's Hospitals, this accident, in our opinion, should not have occurred.

THE circumstances, as follows, were investigated by the East London Coroner and a jury, and there is no doubt that, if women had seats, as they should have, on every jury, the Coroner would have been spared the duty of giving the rebuke he justly addressed to the men who gave the verdict.

THE poor mother, when under examination, stated that the child was sent to the sick asylum on a parish order. On Monday last she received a special order to visit the child, as he had had a nasty fall. On going to the asylum she was told that he was dead. It appeared that the child had been fastened in bed by linen straps. He was seen by the several nurses who were on duty up to 8.45 in the evening, when everything appeared all right. Shortly after ten o'clock the Superintendent and a nurse found the child hanging out of bed head downwards and suspended by the strap, which was fastened to the head of the bedstead. The assistant medical officer injected strychnine and tried artificial respiration without avail.

THE medical superintendent deposed that death was due to shock from the fall. It certainly did not occur from asphyxia.

IN reply to the Coroner, witness said that since a similar fatality occurred at another institution he had always insisted that the children should be fastened by the straps from the sides of the bed, and the straps were made accordingly to allow that.

THE Coroner remarked that it was quite clear that the child's death was due to carelessness. It was a serious matter for the nurse under any circumstances.

THE jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and exonerated all the nurses from blame.

THE Coroner: Then I must say I don't agree with your verdict. Sometimes jurors take too harsh a view, but in this matter I think you have been much too lenient. I don't know what the mother thinks, but if I were in her place I should be far from satisfied.

THE Mother: If my child had been properly looked after it wouldn't have happened, and somebody is to blame.

WITH which remarks no one can disagree.

AT the Nursing Exhibition in 1896 some excellent "tie-downs" were shown for keeping restless sick children from falling out of bed. These were merely soft straps so arranged that, they gave ample freedom of motion, and were attached either by little chest jackets or with shoulder straps, to the child, and then fastened to the *sides of the bed*. These straps, whilst not hurtful or irritating to the restless child, were so constructed that it was impossible for the little patient to fall out of bed or injure itself by strangulation. Some such safe appliance should be adopted *under medical direction* in every hospital, and any recurrence of such "accidental deaths" rendered impossible.

YOUNG children, moreover, should never be placed in adults' beds. Many cots are now made with high sides, which are fairly safe in the majority of cases; if it is undesirable to restrict the limbs of the patient, a frame-work and netting attached to the cot permits a child free movement without any danger to life and limb. In these days of medicinal and nursing progress, any accident to a sick child in a hospital ward should be easily guarded against.

AN increase of the nursing staff at night appears to be urgently needed at the Salford

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