

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* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



WHAT a busy week in the nursing world the present one has been! What with the Meeting of the Provisional Committee of the International Council of Nurses, the Matrons' Council Conference of two days, the Distribution of Badges and Certificates to Queen's Nurses by Princess Henry of Battenberg to just on 100 nurses, the Meeting of the London School Nurses' Society, and of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, those interested in all have had to pick and choose; for if they had attended everything, they would have had little time to look after their patients.

THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to confer the Decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon Miss May Christina Anderson, Nursing Sister in charge of the Colonial Hospital, Suva, Fiji, in recognition of services rendered to officers and men of Her Majesty's Navy, who were treated in the hospital there during the disturbances in Samoa in 1899.

THERE is a happy custom at the London Hospital of distributing the prizes gained during the year to the Nursing Probationers at the same time as those of the medical students. This year the Distribution will take place in the Library of the Medical College, on Thursday, July 19th, at 3.30 p.m., and on the same day the New Clubs Union Rooms, Garden and Fives Court will be opened.

WE have heard the last of the Midwives' Bill for the present session, for its promoter, Mr. Heywood Johnstone, evidently did not want a division, and so talked out his own Bill. Why?

"He either fears his fate too much,
Or his deserts are small,
Who fears to put it to the touch
To gain or lose it all."

Apparently, Mr. Heywood Johnstone was not of this opinion. Was he afraid of an adverse vote? The circumstances were as follows:—When the

Midwives' Bill was called on Wednesday in last week, at twenty minutes to five, Mr. Griffith-Boscawen rose and moved that it be considered that day three months. The Bill, he said, was a bad Bill. It was clearly unfit to pass, and if not greatly amended, would do more harm than good. Colonel Victor Milward protested against the craze for registration, and amused the House by suggesting that it would be quite as proper to register country gentlemen, of which class the two chief promoters of the Bill were highly respected members. Then Sir John Tuke rose and made his maiden speech in support of the Bill, which was further supported by Dr. Farquharson and Mr. Parker Smith. Sir Walter Foster urged that the very importance of the measure made it necessary to postpone a Bill which was so defective that a dozen or more amendments stood on the paper in the name of its promoter, Mr. Heywood Johnstone. The Bill as it stood, repealed the Medical Acts and created a new class of practitioners; it was, therefore, too large a measure for a private member, and should be undertaken by the Government. Sir Walter Foster finished about a minute and a half before 5.30, leaving time for a division to be called, but Mr. Heywood Johnstone got up to speak on the advisability of the Bill being made a Government measure, and so talked it out.

AND how about those most vitally concerned, and whose opinion would have been invaluable in this discussion, the mothers of the nation, and the midwives themselves? Oh, well—they were in the places to which our enlightened Government relegates them, behind the grille or in the lobby. When will it strike our legislators as absurd to leave such Bills to be dealt with exclusively by men? We write with the memory of Mr. Balfour's blushes upon us, and it is questions such as this which drive home the necessity for the participation of women in politics. We agree with Mr. Griffith-Boscawen—the Bill was a bad one. It is, happily, disposed of. *Requiescat in pace.*

A WOMAN named Annie Wilson was recently charged at Dale Street Police Court, Liverpool, on a warrant with having fraudulently obtained £5 from Miss Rosa Douglas, Superintendent of the Young Women's Christian Association Home in that city, who gave evidence to the effect that the prisoner, who then passed by the name of St. Clare, stayed for some time in the Home in June of last year. Her statement was that she was nursing a lady who was very ill at Birkenhead, and would only require a bed-room. She wore the uniform of a nurse. In July she

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