

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



night nurse to the Duke of York in his recent illness.

WE learn that Miss Mary Ann Soal, who had the honour of nursing the late Queen in her last illness, has been presented by the King with a valuable brooch, which he told her always to wear in memory of Queen Victoria. The nurse also received a similar gift from the German Emperor. Besides nursing the Queen, Miss Soal acted as

The following minute was sent from the Scottish branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Scotland to Her Royal Highness Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll), and a letter has been received from Colonel Chater conveying Her Royal Highness's sincere thanks:—

To Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, president of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.—May it please your Royal Highness, we, the council of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, along with the affiliated associations (understated), and the Queen's nurses in Scotland, humbly desire to express our profound grief at the death of our beloved and revered Queen, and our most respectful sympathy with your Royal Highness and the Royal House on the overwhelming loss the Royal House has sustained. In this expression we desire to associate with us the sick poor for whom Queen Victoria founded this institute, which must ever remain a great national memorial of her beneficence, wisdom, and tender sympathy with suffering.

(Signed) AUGUSTA BLYTHSWOOD,
Vice-President.

Lord Wolseley, the late Commander-in-Chief of the Army deserves well of the nation, for he has—no doubt with great violation to his feelings—exposed the weak place in the organisation of the Army in the House of Lords, and he has contended that the Commander-in-Chief shall hold that office in fact, as well as in name, and that the control of this specialized department shall be in expert hands.

It may not at first sight appear that this has much to do with nursing matters, but in reality it is intimately connected with them. The principle is one for which we have been contending in Army Nursing Organization for the last fourteen years, and ever since the commencement of the present war we have urged its recognition and enforcement in this connection. The organisation of the Army Nursing Service Reserve by a committee unrepresentative of the interests of trained nurses has from its inception been a radical mistake, and it is not surprising that this committee has been found unequal to the efficient performance of the work which it undertook, that the type, in many instances, and the number of nurses sent out to South Africa are quite inadequate to the needs of the sick soldiers, and that in consequence the Hospitals Commission tells us of enteric patients waiting upon themselves, and lying in their khaki "fouled with evacuations," and having no change of clothing.

If the principle advocated for by Lord Wolseley is recognised in regard to the position of the Commander-in-Chief, a natural sequence is that it will be carried out in the various departments of the Army, and this would mean the appointment of an experienced Superintendent of Nursing as head of the Army Nursing Department, who would work in co-operation with the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, and be held responsible for the efficiency of the Army Nursing Service.

We so often receive reports of Hospitals which contain no recognition of the work of the Matron and Nursing Staff that we are glad to find this somewhat ungracious attitude is not the custom at King's College Hospital. At the Annual Court of the Corporation, held recently under the presidency of the Rev. Dr. Wace, the fine work of the Sister-Matron (Miss K. Monk) and the Sisters and Nurses was recognised, and the thanks of the meeting accorded to them.

Truth is still "going for" Mr. Ley of the "West London Male and Female Nurses Association," Weymouth Street, W., and says that "he had at a recent date no less than sixty of his nurses at Netley Hospital. As Ley takes 1s. a day from the pay of each of his men, this would mean that he is drawing £21 a week from Netley Hospital alone, besides the £120 which these sixty men have paid him for admission to his precious "Association." The co-operation of the War Office in a sweating system of this magnitude is one of the most disgraceful things of its kind that I ever heard of, and the attention of Parliament ought to be called to it."

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