

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



The Nurses' Home of Rest at Brighton was opened to visitors on Tuesday, and very bright and tasteful it looked after renovation. Eleven years' wear and tear had taken the "shine off." Mrs. McIntyre has expended the gifts of money for tithing purposes, and we think to the best advantage.

Nursing Notes, the journal of the Incorporated Midwives' Institute, is getting quite "pert," and this month enquires if Mr. Fardon, Hon. Med. Secretary, was authorised by the Council of the R.B.N.A. to put up "T.P." to oppose the second reading of the Midwives Bill in the House of Commons, and remarks: "We remember, not so very long ago, that British Nurses, who are also certificated midwives, found that their officials were quite ready, without consultation with them, to relinquish their right to be called midwives at the request of the Medical Defence Union; was it now at their own wish, that the certificated midwives of the British Nurses' Association agitated to deprive themselves of the status that will be granted to well-trained midwives by this Bill? We pause for a reply."

No pause is necessary. The Editor of *Nursing Notes* may rest assured that if there is any line of action detrimental to the professional status of trained nurses—that action will be taken without consulting the nurse members by the Hon. Medical Officers of the R.B.N.A. And, moreover, we are inclined to think that the women who submit to this unscrupulous conduct of their affairs without protest are more contemptible than the men who direct them.

Anyway, if naughty little *Nursing Notes* is not careful, Mr. Edward Fardon will speedily place it on the Index Expurgatorius at the office of the R.B.N.A.

We regret to learn of the serious illness of Miss Catherine J. Wood, of the Nurses' Hostel, Francis Street, and are sure that many nurses will unite with us in wishing her a speedy recovery.

Once more the death of an infant in a Metro-

politan Hospital through burns from a hot-water bottle points the moral of the need for the observance of what should be an invariable rule, namely, that hot-water bottles and pillows should not be placed in contact with the skin, but should always have covers. The mother of the infant gave evidence at the inquest that when the child, who was taken to the hospital for an operation, was handed back to her she noticed a large blister from the knee to the ankle. A medical officer of the hospital explained that the child's body came into direct contact for about ten seconds with a water pillow which was possibly too hot, and the jury in returning a verdict of "Accidental death," expressed the opinion that in future special precautions should be taken against similar accidents. According to the evidence of the divisional surgeon, the child was extensively burned, and it appears to us extraordinary that it should have been sent out of the hospital in this condition, and further that the mother's attention should not have been directed to the injury.

The repeated comments in the press as to the dearth of nurses in the small-pox hospitals is not creditable to the nursing profession. We have so far refrained from saying so, hoping that the constant notices of the need of nurses for small-pox hospitals would result in an ample supply being forthcoming. But this has so far not been the case, and, when we remember what hundreds of women were all agog to rush off to the war, we are forced to believe that the reason is to be found not in a dearth of nurses, but in their unreadiness to undertake work of an unpleasant and unexciting nature. Is the old spirit of self-sacrifice which animated such women as Agnes Jones dying out that we need the roll of martial drums and the approbation of Royalty to inspire us as a profession with a sense of duty? It will be an ill day when such motives have greater weight with us than the claims of the sick poor. Our proudest boast as nurses should be to be able to say in days to come that wherever the need was the sorest, the disease most difficult to cope with, "we were there." Excitement fades away, and Royal smiles are transitory rewards, but the approval of conscience over work well done, and the remembrance of the gratitude of the poor in their extremity, will afford solid satisfaction in the days when we can work no longer.

We are glad to note in the Report of the Honorary Medical Staff to the Committee of the Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne, that they "record their most cordial thanks to Miss Daintree, the Matron, and to the Ward Sisters and Nurses for their highly efficient co-operation in the work of the Hospital."

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