

at its height, and the belief in magic and witchcraft general and profound, terrible atrocities were perpetrated in punishment of those who were supposed to plot evil against their fellow-men by direct compact with and assistance from the devil.

Thousands of innocent people were burnt or drowned as witches or sorcerers for causing by unholy incantations or secret poisonings disease and death, due in reality to foulness and gross neglect of sanitary laws. Sometimes the murder was wholesale. Two thousand Jews are said to have been burnt at Strasburg, and twelve thousand were put to death at Mayence in the fourteenth century for causing pestilence, *i.e.*, the plague, by poisoning the wells. The Jews, probably by reason of the superior hygienic conditions enforced by their ceremonial law, appear to have escaped epidemics from which the Christians suffered, and this immunity led to their being suspected of causing the disease in others from which they themselves remained free.\*

Another accepted explanation of the origin of disease was the malign influence of the stars and planets.

In this same fourteenth century Guy de Chauliac, the celebrated French Surgeon and Physician, the Medical adviser of three successive Popes at Avignon, and one of the most able men of his time, attributed the outbreak of plague to the influence of three great planets, Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars, entering into conjunction with Aquarius on the 24th of March, 1345.†

The origin of the terrible epidemic of Black Death about the same period (probably black or malignant typhus, "putrid fever") was explained on similar principles.

(To be continued.)

### NURSING ECHOES.

I AM asked to say that there are still a few tickets to be obtained for friends, at five shillings each, by Members of the B.N.A., for the *Conversazione* to-morrow evening at the Princes' Hall. I see by the programme that the guests are to be received in the Galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours—wherein, by-the-bye, there is now an excellent exhibition of oil paintings—from 9 to 9.45 by the Vice-Chairmen



\* Meryon's "History of Medicine," vol. i., page 209.  
† *Ibid.*, vol. i., page 201.

of the Executive Committee; that the Bijou Orchestra will discourse sweet music in the Galleries throughout the evening; that at 9.45 a Ballad Concert will be given in the Princes' Hall, in which we are promised old and new favourites from Mrs. Stubbs, who as Miss Robertson was, I believe, known as the "Kentish Nightingale," from Mr. Robertson and Mrs. Hancock; while the much admired poetess, "Miss E. Nesbitt," is going to recite one of her own poems, and with Mr. Marshall Steele, a duologue of Fabian Bland's. Finally Mr. Corney Grain is, I see, once more prepared to give us one of his inimitable musical sketches. No wonder, with such a programme, it is expected that more than twelve hundred Nurses and their friends will be present at the gathering.

I HEAR that we are really to lose Miss Mollett from our midst. She will doubtless have quite an ovation to-morrow evening at the *Conversazione*, where she will say good-bye to numbers of old and valued Nurse friends. A lady of unusual intellectual ability, she has been as greatly admired for these qualities amongst her fellow-workers as for her sympathetic and kindly nature. Miss Mollett sails at the beginning of January for South Africa, her destination being Johannesburg; and as will be seen from our advertising columns, she is seeking for six gentlewomen and well-trained Nurses to accompany her, as her staff for the new Hospital she is going to organize.

MEMBERS of the B.N.A. will be much interested to hear that Dr. Milton, the well-known Physician to the Kaisr-el-Aini Hospital, in Cairo, and medical adviser to the Egyptian Government, was married last week to Miss Munro, who was lately invalided home—as I duly recorded at the time in these columns—after the dangerous illness with which she was prostrated while organising the Nursing department of the Cairene Hospitals, and from which her less fortunate colleague afterwards died. Both Dr. and Mrs. Milton were, I hear, early and firm adherents of the B.N.A., and I am sure all the Members will unite, with all their numberless other friends, in wishing them all health, happiness, and great prosperity.

GENTLEWOMEN desirous of obtaining a short period of training in a country Hospital will be glad to know that arrangements have now been completed at the Lincoln County Hospital for the reception of lady pupils. I believe only a limited number can be admitted, and the reputa-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)