

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



During his visit to Portsmouth this week the King found time to visit Osborne House Convalescent Home. His Majesty inspected each floor of the House and saw several of the patients. At the Royal Naval College the King also gave proof of his interest in the arrangements for the sick, and after inspecting the cadets, visited those of their number who were being medically attended.

Her Majesty the Queen, who has always taken a keen interest in the work of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, has given a fresh proof of this interest by proposing a scheme to wipe out the last year's deficit of £2,000, and to place the work of the Institute on a more satisfactory financial basis in future. The Institute spends no less than £10,000 per annum in the training and inspection of nurses, and the financial drain has been so severely felt that it has been found imperative to spend money out of the capital account. At the Queen's suggestion a Queen Alexandra's Committee has now been formed of ladies, each one of whom is pledged to contribute or to raise £100 during the present year and to consider plans for the future. The Queen has herself opened the list of donations with a cheque for £100. The Committee appointed, with the approval of the Queen, includes Lady Cadogan, President; Lady Dimsdale, Vice-President; Mr. Harold Boulton, Treasurer; and Mr. Garratt, Secretary; The Duchess of Portland, Katherine Duchess of Westminster, Lady Londonderry, Lady Mary Howard, Lady Derby, Lady Lonsdale, Lady Plymouth, Lady Falmouth, Lady Knutsford, Lady Victoria Lambton, Lady Penrhyn, Lady Sandhurst, Lady Rothschild, Lady Llangatock, Lady Newton, Lady Blythwood, the Hon. Mrs. C. A. Egerton, Lady Fitzgerald, Amy Lady Tate, Lady Chubb, Mrs. Herbert Gladstone, Mrs. George Alexander, Mrs. Arthur Paget, and Mrs. Adolph Tuck. At the first meeting of the Committee Mrs. Arthur Paget handed in

£100 as some indication of her grateful appreciation of the surgical and nursing skill which had brought her through her recent operation.

The Queen has consented to become patroness of the Berkshire Nursing Association.

The Duchess of Northumberland recently entertained about one hundred and fifty ladies—nurses and workers of the Northumberland Nursing Association at the historic Alnwick Castle.

At the Annual Meeting of the Notts Nursing Federation, the report showed that the work of district nursing was increasingly understood and appreciated in the county. The County Council had repeatedly expressed their satisfaction with the way in which Miss Ross, the County Superintendent, had overcome the initial difficulties of the work of inspector of midwives, and with her very thorough methods; it is hoped that the County Council may before long see their way to co-opt representatives of the Federation on the Committee to which the inspector of midwives is responsible. Mrs. Hoskyns, in moving the adoption of the report, said that there were many diseases which had no right whatever to exist, and she believed the district nurses had done much to decrease these. One of the saddest things was the infantile mortality among the poorer classes, and an example of the efficacious results of the visits of the district nurses was shown by the fact that, while one child out of every five born, died directly afterwards, in districts unfrequented by their nurses, only four out of every hundred died in districts frequented by their nurses.

A physician appeals in the *Gil Blas* to French ladies of good family to admire and imitate those of their English sisters who make hospital nursing their profession. It certainly is strange that so civilised a country as France should still be but little beyond the initial stage in this important matter; but there is an obstacle in the way of reform which the French reformer does not quite appear to realise. The woman worker of good family is in France regarded as "déclassée," and finds it exceedingly difficult to get married. She naturally, therefore, is reluctant to embark upon a career which condemns her to the strong probability of spinsterhood, but prefers to remain in the domestic circle waiting for Prince Charming to arrive.

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