

water it was removed to a corner of the room to cool, and the cover of the container removed. I proceeded to cover it with a carbolic cloth, when the nurse exclaimed, "Oh, please don't do that; it will not be cool enough, and if the dust does fall into it the germs will be killed; you know it is germ-proof now."

The Secretary of the United States Navy concurs with the Surgeon-General that it is important that Congress shall this Session enact a Bill which authorises the establishment and organisation of trained women nurses in the hospital corps of the Navy. It is not a bit American to have this good work deferred so long.

A correspondent in India writes:—

"We hear much of the difficulty of getting a sufficiency of well-trained nurses to do hospital and private work for any length of time in India. The truth is, they are very badly paid, and it is hoped that Lady Minto's Nursing Association will set a good example by offering adequate salaries as well as beautiful homes. Here in Calcutta there is a dearth of good nurses in many hospitals. The chief difficulty in the way of recruiting the staff would appear to be the smallness of the salary offered and want of prospects."

The Rev. Godfrey Dale, writing of the hospital maintained by the Universities Mission in Zanzibar, says of the patients: "They come from all over Africa and India and Arabia. I have spoken with Indians from Bombay, Patiala, Delhi, and Lahore; with Arabs from Yemen, Shihiri, Aden, Hadramaut, and Oman, with Abyssinians, Somalis, Gallas, and representatives of several East African tribes. Again and again I have been told that there is nothing whatever in the world, as they know it to be compared to the kindness and attention they receive in the hospital, and the patience and sympathy of the nurses with the natives."

#### THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION.

Admission to the Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition which opens at the Cavendish Rooms, Mortimer Street, London, W., on Tuesday, April 28th, is free to nurses and midwives who can obtain tickets by writing to the Organising Secretary, Mr. Ernest Schofield, 32, Sackville Street, Piccadilly, London, W., enclosing a stamped envelope. Provincial nurses visiting the Exhibition should ask at the same time for Railway Certificate, as cheap fares are issued from all stations. Railway, station, and day for which ticket is desired should be stated. The hours are from 2.30 to 10.30 p.m. daily.

#### Close of an Honourable Career.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Miss Spencer, the late Lady Superintendent of Nurses at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, which will be felt by many of those who passed through the Nursing School connected with this great hospital, and are now holding responsible positions all over the world, as a bereavement. Miss Spencer was greatly beloved by those who came under her influence, and by her personal character and example did much to inspire in others the highest ideals of work and duty.

Miss Spencer was trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, where she first met Miss Pringle, who preceded her as Lady Superintendent at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and under whom she served as Assistant Superintendent for ten years, being appointed as her successor in the most honourable and onerous position of Lady Superintendent of Nurses in 1887.

She was unwearied and devoted in the discharge of the duties of her office, and gained the admiration of all who had the opportunity of observing and knowing the character of her work and the manner in which she performed it.

Her death took place at her residence at Dollar on April 15th, and she was interred in the Dollar Churchyard with every mark of respect and affection.

Amongst those who were present at the funeral service, conducted both at the house and at the graveside by the Rev. Mr. Paul, of Dollar, were Miss Pringle, former Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Miss A. W. Gill, R.R.C., the present Lady Superintendent, and a number of sisters and nurses who had trained or served under Miss Spencer, and were anxious to render this last service of love and loyalty. Also Dr. J. O. Affleck, Hon. Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Miss E. S. Haldane, LL.D., and Mr. W. B. Blaikie representing the Board of Management, Dr. Fordyce and Mr. Caw representing the staff, and Dr. Barcroft representing the residents. From far and near also came beautiful wreaths and other floral tokens. Simultaneously with the funeral ceremony at Dollar a special service, which was largely attended, was held in the Chapel at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, conducted by the Rev. James Harvey. So was laid to rest with every honour one who has left an example of over thirty years' continuous devotion to the relief of sickness and suffering.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)