

gave a laughing song, which proved infectious; whilst Mr. G. F. Heath and Mr. Edward Elam provoked much merriment with allusions to the topics of the hour. Altogether "The Golden Apple" deserves to become popular.

THE late Miss Benson, daughter of the Archbishop of Canterbury, is about to receive a slight memorial of a kind that she would have thought very fitting. The ladies of the Nelson Settlement, in Blackfriars, propose to institute a parochial nurseship in memory of Miss Benson. There is already a Parochial Nurse in Lambeth, whose duty it is to visit the sick poor in their homes. The cost of establishing such a post is, we believe, £100 a year.

A SERIES of three private subscription dances, under the patronage of Princess Christian, is announced to take place at the Portman Rooms, on January 21 and February 3 and 16, in aid of the North-West London Hospital, Kentish Town Road. The Hungarian Band has been engaged for the series. Full particulars, with a list of the patronesses and stewards, who will issue vouchers, can be obtained of Mr. A. Craske, the Secretary, at the Hospital.

MORE correspondence in the medical press concerning the Registration of Midwives! Mrs. Nichol, the Secretary of the Midwives' Institute, sends the following letter to last week's *Lancet*:—"Sirs,—Dr. Drage—who wrote to you last week on the subject of the Midwives' Registration Bill, and the desirability of the subject being taken up by the medical profession only—perhaps does not know that ever since the Obstetrical Society drafted a Bill in 1882 the question has been more or less—[Very much less, we should say.—*Ed.*]—before the profession, but that while the Registration of Midwives by Act of Parliament has received the approval of such men as Dr. Playfair, Dr. Priestley, Dr. Graily Hewitt, Dr. Robert Barnes, Dr. John Williams, Dr. Galabin, Dr. Cullingworth, and others, the profession has not seen its way to undertake the matter, but has advised the Midwives themselves to do it. The Midwives were not strong enough till 1890, when, through the initiative of the Midwives' Institute, a Bill was brought into Parliament. We feel that in consequence the subject can never again sink into the same oblivion, or be viewed with such indifference by the public as has been the case in the past."

HAD the Midwives followed the excellent advice given to them by the celebrated medical men above mentioned, and managed their own affairs, instead of being guided by those devoid of all

professional knowledge, we imagine they would never have drafted such an egregiously bad bill as that which has been "brought into Parliament through the initiative of the Midwives' Institute."

THE Prince of Wales, as President of the International Congress of Hygiene and Demography, to be held in London in August next, has addressed a circular letter to the London vestries and district boards inviting them to appoint delegates to attend the congress, and asking that facilities may be afforded for the members of the congress to inspect sanitary works or allied objects of interest under the control of the vestry.

I HAVE the following interesting piece of news to record. It is that "after the Christmas-trees and other entertainments were concluded at the Hospital for Sick Children, Fleming Memorial Hospital, Moor Edge, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the Matron, Miss Landale, M.B.N.A., was presented by the Sisters and Nurses with a handsome brass inkstand, with a shield attached, bearing a suitable inscription."

I AM informed that donations to the amount of £600 have been made to the Sanitary Institute during the past year by the hon. officers and members of the Council, and a considerable portion of this amount has been devoted to re-arranging and improving its museum of sanitary appliances, and to the preparation and printing of a catalogue. The museum being open free to the public, want of funds has hitherto prevented the Council from undertaking this work, although they long felt it to be much needed in order to make the teaching of the museum fully available to the public.

S. G.

A NURSING DESPOTISM.—The last two numbers of the *Nursing Record* have been very severe upon the London Hospital so far as relates to the Nursing. The committee are warned that they "stand on a volcano." Among the many charges is that "a Nursing despotism has been established at the Hospital." And as attention is drawn to the state of affairs at the Pendlebury Children's Hospital in 1880—when the Matron resigned and the Committee had to institute reforms—it is argued that a similar course will have to be followed in the case of the London. The strength of the articles in the *Nursing Record* lies in the fact that they are based on the evidence given in the Lords' Committee blue book, a plan which we were very careful to adopt last year.—*Charity Record*.

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