

## NURSING ECHOES.

\*.\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

THE Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, of which Princess Louise has become President, in succession to the late Countess of Rosebery, has been presented by Her Majesty with a fine portrait of herself.



It is with great pleasure that I learn that Miss Emily Mansel has been offered, and accepted, the important position of Inspector of Nursing to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses. I feel sure that this will be a most popular appointment with the Nurses.

THE National Health Society is doing excellent work, both in training and sending out competent, capable gentlewomen as sanitary missionaries into the country. Laws of Health, Home Nursing, First Aid in Accidents, and Cottage Cookery, are the subjects undertaken by these ladies, and the cottages of many of the counties of England are now receiving the benefit of their instructions.

ON December 16 an entertainment was given by the Students' Club of the Charing Cross Hospital to the patients, Nurses, and friends of that Institution. The entertainment—the thirteenth of its kind—consisted of two short comedies, both of which gave unlimited satisfaction to the appreciative audience. The kindly pleasant custom—which holds good in all our larger Hospitals and Infirmarys—of arranging entertainments and amusements of various kinds to beguile the weary hours of those who are compelled to spend the festive season shut up within the four walls of an Institution, is most admirable, and is always, when properly managed, productive of much pleasure and many good results. It may be questionable whether, with a heavy Ward and bad cases to engross her Nurses' time, a Sister is justified in allowing elaborate and ornate decorations to interfere with the Ward work, and wear out still further her already wearied Nurses; but the same objection does not apply to the pleasant bright evening festivities provided by

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the energy and kindness of the Medical Staff or the outside public.

MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE has addressed the following letter to Mr. Frederick Verney, who, I believe, is her nephew:—

Claydon House, Winslow, Bucks,  
October 17, 1891.

My dear Mr. Frederick Verney,—It is scarcely needful to say to intelligent people that health at the home is one of the most important questions for anyone charged with the duties of local government. But, while sanitation has actually become fashionable—while we are choked with the flood of sanitary books, pamphlets, publications, and lectures of all sorts, good, bad, and indifferent—we have remained a book and a pen.

We have not become a voice and a hand.

What is read in a book stays in a book.

Health in the home has not been carried home to the hundred of thousands of rural mothers and girls upon whom so largely depends the health of the rural population.

In fact, they do not believe in sanitation as affecting health, as preventing disease.

There has been a melancholy instance near here.

At your special request I have been making assiduous inquiries for educated women trained in such a way that they could personally bring their knowledge home to the cottagers' wives on a mission of health for rural districts. For this they must be in touch and in love, so to speak, with the rural poor mothers and girls, and know how to show them better things without giving offence.

We have—though they are but a sprinkling in our great towns and in London—excellent town district Nurses, but for many obvious reasons they would be quite suitable for your proposed work. We can find no one woman for this ready-made. She must be created for a rural health missionary.

Knowing how deeply interested you were in this subject on its practical side, we have consulted a number of the most experienced people, and we have arrived at the conclusion that to make the movement a success we must find some gentleman apt to teach and educated women apt to learn—in other words, we must train them for the purpose, and we must not mix up nursing the sick with health in the home.

It does not appear in the least necessary to go outside this county. It seems far better to utilise the ability at hand for teachers' and the capacity for being taught. With this object I have made inquiry as to who there may be in North Bucks who would be willing to give time and trouble to teach, and who is qualified by knowledge and experience, and caring for this problem as it deserves.

I had already been much struck by a report of one of the North Bucks medical officers of health—Dr. De'Ath. I made inquiries from independent sources. I have seen him, and have a good hope that he will prove himself to be as competent as he certainly is willing, from a high sense of duty, to undertake this work—the work, that is, of training those who are to teach practical domestic sanitation to the mothers and girls, and who will be qualified by a course of work theoretical—that is, to give them the "reason why" and practical, to show them how to do it, under Dr. De'Ath.

I know of no such School of Health now in existence for teaching of this kind as would be started at Buckingham, if

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)