

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

THE Princess of Wales has forwarded to the British Home for Incurables, Clapham, a cheque for £150, the second instalment on account of the sale of Canon Fleming's sermon, "Recognition in Eternity."



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SŒUR ELIZABETH, the devoted directress of the Orphanage for Sailors' children at Dieppe, has been decorated with the Legion of Honour, in recognition of the distinguished services she has rendered

during thirty-two years. The Institution was largely founded by the sister, who dedicated to it the large fortune that she possessed as Mme. MENNIER, before she joined the Order of St. Vincent de Paul.

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I CULL the following from the *Provincial Medical Journal*, re the Registration of Midwives, and call the attention of my readers to the endorsement which this leading journal gives to the views which have often been expressed in our columns:—

"We are in favour of lady doctors, and if women prefer to be attended by their own sex, a fact which we very much doubt, they certainly ought to have the choice, but they should not be supplied with a low-grade midwife, with a minimum qualification, a three months' course, and even a six weeks' course being sufficient to qualify. There is no comparison between the young practitioner who has undergone a four or five years' course of medicine, and who has only attended a few confinements, and the midwife who may have attended a larger number. The young practitioner through his theoretical knowledge is on a much higher level; he knows his anatomy, and we must not disguise the fact that every young practitioner qualified and registered is but commencing his studies when he sets up in practice for himself; he has to gain experience; no curriculum can do more than put him in the right way. He learns to operate. Knowing the first principles of surgery, he does so satisfactorily. Necessarily the saying comes true, "*Fiat experimentum in corpore vili.*" The young practitioner after a year's experience is in advance of the midwife. In brief, we would end and not mend the midwife. It is an old name which has done harm and perpetuated ignorance. *La sage femme* must disappear. We must substitute for her the Obstetric Nurse, who should have a three years' training. The poor, in our opinion, do not suffer from the want of medical attendance in the actual time of labour, but from want of Nursing and care after confinement. All agencies which will bring about this will meet with our support. The Poor-law might provide obstetric Nurses. A system of district visiting is now in vogue in most towns, and there are district Nurses; still

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more, there might be a development of day Nursing: that is to say, if we had obstetric Nurses they might visit the poor and go from one house to another, charging a small fee for the ten days' attendance on each parturient case. This would minimise the expense. At present, the working man has to engage someone to look after his wife—neighbour or relative—whom he has to pay, and whom he has also to feed, but who is ignorant altogether of Nursing. With a proper system of obstetric Nursing he would be able to dispense sooner with the services of this help."

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THE Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association took place at Nottingham last week, and the First General Meeting seems to have been lively and interesting, to judge from the following from *The British Medical Journal*:—

"Dr. RENTOUL (Liverpool) called attention to the balance-sheet and asked that the Council of the Association should give more information to the members. He thought the amount of money spent for editorial expenses (£5,000) last year seemed too much. He had asked the general secretary to tell him what amount had been paid for editorial articles, leading articles, correspondence articles, the writing of obituary notices and other special correspondence, but the general secretary in reply had informed him that it was not his province to give such information to members. Now Dr. Rentoul considered that the Association was a limited liability company, limited as it were by guarantee, and he hoped that in future the Council would supply more detailed information in their balance-sheet."

"Dr. LOVELL DRAGE (Hatfield) called attention to the manner in which subjects of importance to the Association were discussed and illustrated his remarks by reference to the mode in which the views of the Association had been obtained on the Midwives Bill.—Dr. SAUNDBY asked if this was due to the action of the Council or to the action of the Metropolitan Branch of the Association.—Dr. LOVELL DRAGE, continuing, said the Association had no right to use the name of the Association in connection with legislation on which the views of the members had not been obtained."

"Mr. GEORGE BROWN spoke of the way in which the interests of the members were laid aside by the Council of the Association. The Association as a whole had but few opportunities of expressing its opinion in public, or upon the more important questions which were brought before Parliament. What could be of greater importance to medical men than a legislation which would alter the conditions of the practice of midwifery in this country? yet no attempt had been made by the Association to give its members an opportunity of expressing an opinion on a question of such vast importance. It would be in the recollection of many members of the Association that some time ago attempts were made to reform the Medical Acts. On this subject no meeting of the Association could be obtained without the signature of fifty of its members. He thought the Council would be consulting in its own dignity and doing justice to the members at large by convening a meeting in London to consider any important question that might arise."

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I THOROUGHLY sympathise with these gentlemen in their desire to express an opinion concerning matters of importance to themselves and to their profession, and their experience concerning the

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