

NURSING ECHOES.

* * Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.

SEVERAL of my readers want to know how it happened, last week, that Mr. Editor and I appeared to differ so much upon the subject of the proposed Co-operative Society for Nurses. I frankly admit that, if I had understood his views upon the subject, before I wrote the *Echoes*, I should probably have materially altered my expressions upon the scheme. But he points out to me that I was quite right and justified in stating my own views, and that, after all, I did not differ from him very much. He suggested that if a Central Registry Office were established, it would act best if it were located at a house where a large number of Nurses were living together under one roof, and if it were connected by telephone or telegraph with similar houses.

AND, reading over his article, I must say that I entirely agree with him, that in that way only, could such a Registry Office help Nurses who were living and working on their own account; that is to say, quite independently of any Nursing Institution. What I was criticising on the other hand, was quite a different thing; a suggestion, emanating from a correspondent, that a number of Private Nurses living alone should unite, choose a Secretary, and Lady Superintendent of their own, and, in fact, form themselves into a Co-operative Nursing Institution. I pointed out that a large amount of capital would probably be required to start the affair, and keep it going, that the closest attention to business matters would be necessary, and that at any rate considerable opposition would be encountered.

MR. EDITOR says, that "after reading your *Echoes* very carefully, I quite share your opinions as to the probable failure of the co-operative scheme, standing alone without the extraneous assistance of an attached Registry Office, though with that support, I am still inclined to believe the difficulties would be superable." So I hope this explanation will satisfy the many readers who so kindly took the opportunity of thus writing, to express their "interest" and "pleasure" in, and "eager looking forward to," each number of this Journal. I am asked to add here that Mr. Editor regrets that it is a physical impossibility to separately thank for, and reply to, all the kind letters sent to him upon this subject, and yet at the same time it is not considered right to publish such laudatory letters.

I AM glad to hear that Miss Jennings, who has been working for some time at the West Kent Hospital at Maidstone, has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Hospital at Port Said. It is a familiar saying, that "trade follows the flag," and certainly Nursing now seems to follow rapidly in its train. It will not be the least of the benefits derived by Egypt from English supervision if British Nurses are thus permitted to carry their civilising influence into its Hospitals and sick-rooms. So I wish Miss Jennings all success and happiness in her new sphere of work.

ON the same subject it is interesting to find in the *Allahabad Pioneer Mail* the following, as to the prospects of the Army Nursing Sisters in India:—"There are now at the Rawalpindi centre one Lady Superintendent and seven Nursing Sisters, and at Bangalore five Sisters, also under a Lady Superintendent. These have all come out from England, but the India Office seems with strange perversity to have bungled as to their distribution. The staff of ladies now at Bangalore, was at first sanctioned for the Umballa centre, where all preparations were made for them in the cantonment itself, and a 'summer-home' built and furnished for them at Kasuali."

"At the last moment the officials at the India Office seem to have changed their mind as to the Umballa centre, and just as the Sisters were about to land in this country, orders were received that they were to be stationed at Bangalore. Now, no preparations had been made for them there, and they had to be put up, by some warm-hearted residents. They were, however, too far away from the Hospitals, and they have since moved into 'quarters,' where they are living in much discomfort, but doing excellent work all the same. Two or three of their number are to be sent to Secunderabad as soon as quarters have been prepared for them. Meanwhile Umballa waits for Nurses, and the home at Kasuali stands empty."

"As to work in Northern India, the Lady Superintendent and these Sisters are still 'in the plains.' On June 1, four Sisters went up to Murree, and have found plenty of employment among the troops garrisoned at Topa and Kuldana. Besides these Nurses paid by Government, Lady Roberts has, as a private undertaking, put in charge of the Murree Home a Lady Superintendent and two Nursing Sisters belonging to the St. Denys' Sisterhood. These ladies, for their mere maintenance, undertake the Nursing in the Officer's Hospital attached to the Home, and have taken over entirely the Ward for bad cases in the Murree Station Hospital."

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