

NURSING ECHOES.

* * * Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.

By the time this appears in print I suppose the excitement, which has pervaded Nursing circles for the last three or four weeks, about the British Nurses' Association's *Conversazione* will have reached its climax. I am told that quite one thousand people are expected to be present, and that, in consequence of the unusually large numbers, preparations have been made which are not generally necessary for gatherings at the Grosvenor Gallery. I am also told on good authority that, instead of the Refreshments being served, as they almost invariably are on such occasions, in the shorter gallery, the restaurant and library are to be given up for this purpose—not only a much more comfortable arrangement, but one which will effectually prevent any overcrowding. The exhibition of Nursing Appliances will occupy, I hear, the end of the smaller gallery, and will comprise some novel, and many very interesting objects.

As to the entertainments, I hear that Mr. J. Robertson, and his equally well-known sister, Mrs. Stanley Stubbs, will sing a duet, and each give one song besides; that a young lady, who, good judges say, is the most rising contralto singer, has also promised her assistance; and that Mr. Dykes will give a short pianoforte recital. The guests, I am told, will be received from nine o'clock till a quarter to ten, when the Ballad Concert will begin, and last about half-an-hour, after which the Refreshment rooms will be opened, and the band will perform till eleven o'clock, when I believe that Mr. Corney Grain has kindly promised to give one of his most clever musical sketches. After this the band will play again till twelve o'clock, when the proceedings will terminate. Altogether, the first *Conversazione* of the Association promises to be a grand success. By-the-by, I am told that the date fixed upon is a very important one, for it appears that December 7th is the first anniversary of the foundation of the Association, and that on that evening last year took place the inaugural meeting. About forty of the Matrons of large London and Provincial Hospitals attended it, I believe, and after careful consideration, not only decided to found a new Association, but also, acting under shrewd legal and medical advice, drew up in detail its objects and its constitution, and appointed a provisional committee to organise the movement. It is a curious and wonderful fact that the Association

now numbers one thousand six hundred members, in other words, in one year the original forty have been multiplied exactly fortyfold!

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A KIND correspondent, who is well known in Nursing circles in England and much admired and respected in her present sphere of work in South Africa, writes to tell me some items of professional news from thence. I should always be glad to receive from her any further information for these columns. Amongst other interesting things are the following:—"Three British Nurses have been appointed to the temporary Volk's Hospital in Pretoria, the chief town of the Transvaal Republic and the seat of the Dutch Government. The old camp buildings, used by English officers during the siege, have been altered to receive twenty-four patients and a small staff. A large General Hospital is shortly to be begun. Miss Pagett, the Matron, was trained by Sister Dora at Walsall, and was afterwards for many years Sub-Matron at St. Anne's Convalescent Home, Burlington. During the last three years she has been Housekeeper at the Kimberley Hospital in the Diamond Fields."

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"THE epidemic of Typhoid Fever at Capetown has strained the powers of the Nursing Staff, under the care of the All Saints' Sisters, at the new Somerset Hospital, to the uttermost. The Government have it in contemplation to put up temporary Wards in the beautiful grounds of the Hospital, which almost overhang the blue waters of Table Bay."

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"THE Board of Management of the Kimberley Hospital, by the advice of the Medical Staff, have given permission to the Sister in charge to open a Private Nursing Institution in connection with the Hospital. It will be the first attempt of the kind in South Africa, and much depends, therefore, upon those who begin the work. The Common Room of the Nurses' Home in this Hospital has been greatly improved by the gift of a magnificent piano and a large collection of music, from a gentleman who was lately a private patient in the Hospital. The piano is one of Collard and Collard's best instruments, and built with special adaptations for hot climates."

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I SHOULD be glad to hear from my kind and valued correspondent what charges are made for the private Nurses referred to above, and also the terms for private patients. I presume they are much higher than those in general adoption in this country. I should be very glad to know how the new scheme works; and, as I said before, to hear

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