

THE EMPRESS FREDERICK and Princess Victoria, attended by Countess Perponcher, Miss M. Ponsonby, Miss Liddell, and Major-General Du Plat, C.B., honoured the Honourable Mrs. Eliot Yorke with a visit at Netley, and afterwards visited the Royal Victoria Hospital. The Empress was received by Colonel W. Hanning Lee, Assistant Adjutant-General, Brigade Surgeon C. H. Y. Godwin, of the Medical Staff Corps, Principal Medical Officer Surgeon-General Sir Thomas Longmore, C.B., and Mrs. Deeble, the Lady Superintendent of Nurses.

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SIR SYDNEY AND LADY WATERLOW left London on Thursday for Egypt. Sir Sydney is proceeding to Cairo for the purpose of permanently establishing the Home for Trained British Nurses, for which he, in January, 1888, obtained the permission of His Highness the Khedive. Some Nurses have already commenced work in Cairo, and a committee has been formed for the proper management of the Institution there. The committee consists of Sir Evelyn Baring, Sir Sydney H. Waterlow, Bart., Dr. Greene Pasha, Dr. Milton, with Dr. Sandwith as honorary secretary.

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I SEE that nearly all the daily London papers have announced that the Empress Frederick of Germany has desired her name to be added to the list of Vice-Presidents of the British Nurses' Association, as a mark of the interest Her Majesty feels in this great movement. It is well known that Nursing in the German Hospitals and Army owes much to the Dowager Empress's intimate theoretical and practical acquaintance with the Art, and to her frequently expressed wish for its advancement in knowledge and usefulness throughout the Fatherland. Meanwhile, the Association quietly pursues the even tenour of its rapidly successful career; in quiet strength, ignoring all the petty attacks and malevolent misrepresentations of its aims and objects to which it has been subject at certain hands, and growing in power, numbers, and influence week by week to an unprecedented extent.

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I HEAR that Nurses are still joining in large numbers from all parts of the country, so that already there is hardly a Hospital in the Kingdom which has not one or more Members among its staff, and that they are rapidly being organised into local centres. It is now quite plain that in a short time every Nurse who can do so will be enrolled in this great professional Union, because if only half the schemes already proposed by the Committee be carried out, the advantages offered to Members will be extraordinary. I say only

half, but I cannot help thinking that those who have brought the Association so rapidly into celebrity and success must know pretty well what they are about, and I should not be at all surprised if, say in three years' time, Registration scheme, Convalescent Homes, Holiday Houses, Central London Home, Benevolent Fund, and Gold Medal of Merit were not all established and organised.

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MR. EDITOR is, however, very anxious that I should lay stress upon one matter. He believes, from many letters which he receives, that some do not see the advantage to themselves of joining the Association at once; that they argue that they had better wait until all these benefits have been obtained by the exertions of others, and then join the Association—"saving," as one Nurse is reported to have said, "their half-crowns until they can get something back." This, of course, is pure selfishness, and if everyone argued thus, simply there would be no Association at all! But those who are holding back for this reason will very probably over-reach themselves. Mr. Editor wishes me especially to call attention to the remarks he makes this week upon this subject, to the effect, I believe, that when the Association is able to offer such great advantages, it will, of course, be made much more difficult than it is at present to obtain its membership. And the higher the standard of admission is raised, the more honourable will success become, and the letters M.B.N.A. (Member of the British Nurses' Association) will be correspondingly coveted.

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MR. EDITOR thinks it is quite plain that "the strings are already beginning to be tightened, as shown by the announcement that, after another thousand or so have joined, Nurses in future will have to pay an entrance fee of five shillings in addition to their annual subscription." This is sure to cause all those who have been thinking of enrolling themselves to do so as soon as possible in order to escape this charge. Talking of the Association reminds me that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will read her promised paper upon "The Matron" to-morrow (Friday) evening, at eight o'clock, at the Medical Society's Rooms, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square. I hear on all sides of people who are going to the Meeting, so that whether there will even be standing room may be regarded as more than doubtful. I would only advise those of my readers who want to secure a seat to be there very early. I may draw attention here to the announcement that no Visitor will be admitted to these Meetings of the Association unless personally introduced by a Member, or by special card, to be obtained from the Secretary.

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