

## NURSING ECHOES.

\* \* \* Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.

THE meeting of the General Council of the British Nurses' Association—a full account of which appears in another column—was very interesting. There was one very unusual circumstance, however. At five o'clock there were only fourteen members of the Council present, though nearly as many visitors were in the room, and there was a delay of nearly five minutes before the necessary quorum was completed, and Mr. Savory could take the chair, and open the meeting. Mr. Brudenell Carter, in speaking to one of the resolutions, made an amusing allusion to the happiness of the people who had no history, and the equal happiness he inferred of the Council who was so trusted to conduct the business of the Association that its members did not attend its meetings.

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SERIOUSLY, however, it does seem strange that more than half of those present at an important meeting of a Nurses' Association should have been well-known Physicians and Surgeons, and that these distinguished gentlemen should have given up their most valuable time to attend it when so few of the two hundred Nurses and Matrons on the Council took the trouble to do so. The business was transacted very quickly, and all the speeches were short and much to the point. I am very glad it has been decided to hold the Annual Meeting at Cambridge, and to hear rumours that picnics and other pleasures are to be combined with business. I am sure it will do good to the Association, too, as one speaker said, to prove conclusively at once that it is not a mere metropolitan affair.

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THEN the important resolution to appeal to each individual member to do what she can to forward the objects of the Association, seemed to meet with general approval. "Heaven helps those who help themselves," is a homely proverb, but contains a truth which has often been exemplified; and there is no doubt that if the members of the B.N.A. would only rise to this occasion, and each one do what she could to obtain funds, in one single month it would become the richest, and therefore the most powerful, organisation in the kingdom. Several of those present at the meeting clearly recognised this, and avowed their intention of doing their individual utmost to secure this most desirable consummation.

THE discussion on the overwork of Nurses continues to occupy the public mind. I am glad to see that the *Illustrated Medical News*, which, in its earlier numbers, did not exhibit much acquaintance with Nursing matters, has now secured the assistance of writers more competent to discuss them. It now gives a long and thoughtful article on Lady Nurses, concluding with these sensible remarks, which fully coincide with the opinions both Mr. Editor and I have expressed on the subject:—"We are convinced, however, that in London, at least, there is no real cause for complaint at the number of hours during which a modern Nurse is employed; and there is but little real ground for the statement which is made in some quarters, that we are drawing our Nurses at the present day from a class of society which is not so well able to stand the amount of hard work as that from which the Nurses were obtained formerly. The fact is that in Nursing, as in other professions, a much larger supply of highly educated material is brought to the market than was formerly the case, and under these circumstances it is little to be wondered at if the Hospital authorities choose those who have education in preference to those who have none."

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I AM glad to hear that Miss M. Rikey has been appointed to the vacant post of Lady District Nurse, at Winchester. She was trained and received her Certificate at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool; then worked at District Nursing for four years in Chester; passing from there to become Sister of the Out-patient Department Accident Room, at the Devon and Exeter Hospital; and finally working for some time at the East Dulwich Infirmary.

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IN the Annual Report of the York Home for Nurses for last year, which shows a record of good work well and economically done, I find the following interesting paragraph, which is very suggestive as showing what is thought of the B. N. A. in the provinces:—"An important movement has recently been set on foot, having for its object the Registration of all women engaged in nursing the sick. This is the principal aim of the British Association of Nurses. It has, however, other very worthy subsidiary objects, amongst which is the establishment of a Provident Fund. It is gratifying to learn that all the Nurses of the York Home who were eligible—to the number of twenty-two—have enrolled themselves Members of the Association. Up to the present (and the arrangement will continue for some months longer), the qualification for enrolment has been three years' active employment as paid Nurses.

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