

spirit that I felt as if she were a friend of years, rather than a complete stranger.

I remember she was so pleased to find that I had not doffed my Bart.'s cap when I left my dear Alma Mater. There is a good deal of prejudice against uniforms amongst the American Nurses, who are so anxious to preserve their individuality in dress as in everything else, that they consider it a great hardship to be clothed to "pattern." They do not so easily recognise the beauty and order of uniformity as we English Nurses do, and it is most difficult to prevent irregularities, in the form of forbidden ribbons and unorthodox trimmings to caps and aprons, from stealing in to subvert the regulations as to uniform. So Miss Fisher was delighted at my intention of a military precision with regard to the proprieties of Hospital dress.

In my next paper I will give an account of the Weir-Mitchell treatment, which was strictly carried out in my little domain under the eye of the great Doctor himself.

ANNESLEY KENEALY.

### NURSING ECHOES.

*\*\* Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

I AM very glad, and not at all surprised, to hear on all sides of the far-reaching effects of the British Nurses' Association, for Nursing matters were getting into a very somnolent condition. Many thought that so much had been done in the way of improving both the status and the work of Nurses that they could well afford to rest upon their oars. Even now I hear that some think it a great pity not to leave things as they were. They do not realise that, in this age of struggle and unrest, those who do not go forward, fall back—the calling which is not improved, retrogrades. So we must be thankful to the Association, which has stirred the profession to its depths, for most, if not all, of the advances of which one constantly hears.

To take only one matter—the education of Nurses. Registration is in the air, and everyone realises that it is coming. The people who last year uttered hysterical cries, as if the Association intended to get a Royal Charter and upset everything in about six weeks, are now passing from the first to the second stage of the complaint—from tears to exaggerated laughter—now asserting that the Association has done nothing yet to gain its ends. The success of the movement, there-

fore, can easily be gauged by the prolonged violence of its effect upon its avowed enemies. But other people have all the less doubt of the ultimate victory of the scheme of Legal Registration, because its promoters have all this time been quietly maturing their plans. And this is shown by the accounts which come to us from all parts of the country, of the action taken by important County Hospitals, in readiness for the day of Registration.

I HEAR of lectures being instituted here, practical classes there, examinations everywhere; and many are the inquiries we receive as to the best form of Certificates to be granted to successful Nurses, the most useful books to study, and the best course of training to be pursued. In fact, it is in consequence of the many queries on this subject that Mr. Editor is now devoting so much attention every week to this matter. Among other reports, I hear that the Northern Counties, ever in the van of progress, do not mean to be left behind in Nursing affairs. For example a kind correspondent writes me, that "The winter course of lectures on Anatomy, Surgical Appliances, and Physiology, in connection with the higher training of Nurses at the York County Hospital, was brought to a close on Tuesday last, when the Dean of York distributed the prizes to the successful competitors. The written examinations were very satisfactory, and many of the Nurses were most deeply interested in the subjects. During the summer months there will be a short course of lectures, including practical instruction at the bedside, which forms a very important item in the training of a Nurse."

EVERYTHING seems to show that the stage of deliberation in the governing body of the Association is now almost concluded, and that the period of action is about to begin. I hear that a long series of Drawing Room Meetings are now organised, which will take place this and next month, at the houses of well-known ladies, in order to explain and interest the public at large in the work which the Association has undertaken. During the next week I see that two of these gatherings are to be held—at Mrs. Head's to-morrow (Friday), when Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Wood, and Miss Mollett are announced to speak; and at the Dowager Countess of Shrewsbury's on Monday, when Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Wood, and Mr. Owen Lankester will address the meeting.

THEN I hear that a great and organised effort is to be made this summer to obtain funds for the various objects of the Association. Very wisely

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