

siasm being evoked on the part of the younger and more energetic Fellows in particular at Mrs. Higgins' success. It is sincerely hoped that this lady will lead the way to the election of the many talented literary women amongst us.

THE objects of the National Association are now widely known, and the interest which has been aroused by the scheme is not confined merely to India. Her Majesty the Queen-Emress has expressed "much satisfaction in learning that the Association is progressing so favourably." The Secretary of State for India has recognised "the excellent aims of the Association and the benefits which its operations are likely to confer upon the women of India." The Government of India itself has exhibited its sympathy in many ways; and the people of the country have shown a practical interest in the movement by their generous subscriptions and their grateful appreciation of the work. The princes and people of India have subscribed liberally, but funds are still required to make further grants-in-aid where, from various causes, the local contributions are not sufficient. It is estimated that the Committee in England will require at least £1,000 annually in order to provide for Indian Scholarships at the Home Schools of Medicine for Women; for grants in aid to Medical Students finishing their professional education in Europe preparatory to going to India; for the outfits and passages of lady Doctors engaged at home for service in India, &c. Hitherto, thanks to friends in the United Kingdom and the Colonies, it has not been necessary to draw on India for any of the expenses incurred at home, and it is most earnestly hoped that now a United Kingdom branch has been formed, under the patronage of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, the annual subscriptions will not only suffice to cover expenditure at home, but allow of substantial support being sent to India. All communications should be sent either to the honorary secretary or to the bankers. Cheques and postal notes should be crossed "Messrs. Coutts and Co., London." Copies of "A Record of Three Years' Work," by the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, giving a complete account of the rise and progress of the National Association during its early days, and of the annual reports (published in India), can be obtained at Messrs. Hatchard's, 187, Piccadilly, price 1s. each. All inquiries should be addressed to Colonel John Robertson, C.I.E., honorary secretary, 65, Kensington Gardens Square, Bayswater, London, W.

BUTEMABAI, the Indian lady whose arrival in this country has already been chronicled, has addressed

an eloquent letter of appeal to the *Times of India* on behalf of the widows of her native country. She says: "I entreat my countrymen to judge of the miseries of widows by transferring the same penalties to men. Suppose it had been enacted that when a man lost his wife he should continue celibate, live on coarse fare, be tabooed from society, should continue to wear mourning weeds for the rest of his life, and practise, whether he would or not, never-ending austerities—in short, if widowers were subjected to the same hard lot as the widows, I ask, would my countrymen not have long since revolted against such inhuman treatment?"

### CORRESPONDENCE

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

\*.\* WHILST CORDIALLY INVITING COMMUNICATIONS UPON ALL SUBJECTS FOR THESE COLUMNS, WE WISH IT TO BE DISTINCTLY UNDERSTOOD THAT WE DO NOT IN ANY WAY HOLD OURSELVES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY CORRESPONDENTS.

#### THE ORIGINATOR OF TRAINED NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—As a former Nurse of St. John's House, I am anxious, in behalf of the Institution to which I owe so much, to show that the statement now generally made, that all Trained Nursing owes its origin to Miss Nightingale's work in the Crimea, is not true to fact.

In July, 1848—six years before the Crimean War—many eminent churchmen and members of the Medical profession met, under the presidency of the late Duke of Cambridge, to establish an Institution for Training Nurses for Hospitals, private families and the sick poor. This Institution, started in the following autumn, took the name of St. John's House.

The undertaking owes its origin to a letter addressed by Dr. R. B. Todd, in 1847, to a number of his friends, urging the necessity of reform in Hospital nursing, and advocating that women of culture should take up the work. The first prospectus of the proposed Institution, with its scheme for Probationers, Nurses and Sisters, may be seen in the *British Magazine* for July, 1848. I believe the first St. John's Nurses were trained at Westminster Hospital; at any rate, St. John's had Nurses ready in 1854, when the cry for Nurses for the wounded arose, and was prepared to send a number with their chaplain to the East before Mr. Sydney Herbert requested Miss Nightingale to take the general superintendence of the expedition. It was to St. John's that Mr. Sydney Herbert advised all women wishing to nurse the wounded to go for their training, and a large number were prepared there and sent out to the seat of war the following year. No doubt the drain of its Nurses to the East delayed the Institution in its primary object—the reform of Hospital Nursing—for it was not till the spring of 1856 that Dr. Todd realised his wish, and the Sisters and

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