

those who have broken down under the strain imposed on them while engaged on cases of a specially severe kind, or who have actually caught infectious maladies from the patients they have been nursing. At present it often happens that Nurses who are unfit for work, owing to the causes we have named, but who yet are not quite ill enough, or unable, for other reasons, to enter the ordinary Hospitals, can find no place in which to recruit their wasted strength and energy, and thus prematurely fall into ill-health. A little care and attention, if given in time, might prevent any serious injury to their constitutions, but, unfortunately, such care and attention are just the very things that cannot now be obtained. If, then, under these circumstances, the Nurse could have the right to enter a Convalescent Home, established for this purpose, a great benefit would be conferred upon all persons engaged in the work of tending the sick.

“Again, it is proposed to set up at the sea-side and in the country ‘Holiday Houses,’ intended not for those who are actually in bad health, but for Nurses who require change of air or scene, but who would experience much difficulty in paying for it out of their own resources. If the buildings were provided by the subscriptions of the public, such places, designed for recreation, might be made self-supporting. In plenty of instances young women who could not manage to find enough money to take lodgings by themselves, would be very glad to pay a moderate amount for their board at one of the contemplated Holiday Houses. Finally, it is proposed to found a Benevolent Fund, out of which the members of the Association shall be entitled to receive assistance if reduced to want from being out of employment, or when in need of help from any other cause. In what relation this fund will stand to the system of pensions which has been established out of the Jubilee gift made to the Queen by the women of the United Kingdom is not expressly stated in the appeal for support put forward by the Association. We may, however, presume that it is not designed to cover the same ground, and that it will be made in some way or other supplementary, perhaps by giving aid only in cases where the right to a pension had not accrued. The particular methods enumerated by us by which the new body may help the Nurses, do not, of course, exhaust the list of benefits which may accrue to them through its agency. There are plenty of other directions in which it may assist them, as for example, making them articulate in regard to any grievance which at present exists or which may arise in the future. While little attention is paid to individual complaints, even when very numerous, an organisation is at once able to make itself

heard. The Nurses, therefore, if they are wise, will lose no time in joining the Association. If once they do so in large numbers, they may be sure of active encouragement and assistance from outside. Already the Association boasts of very distinguished patronage among members of the Medical profession, and all that is needed to make the movement a thorough success is the assurance that those whom it is intended to benefit are willing to do their part, and enrol themselves as Members. That it will in the end be successful, and that the list of Vice-Presidents, among whom are to be found the names of almost every distinguished Physician and Surgeon in the country, will ensure it a sphere of practical usefulness, it is impossible to doubt. The scheme is too reasonable in itself, and fills too obvious a want, not to gain sufficient adhesions to justify the grant of the Royal Charter for which it is proposed to petition the Queen in Council.”

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### NURSING ECHOES.

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

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PERHAPS most of my readers have seen the reports in the daily papers of the meeting in support of the British Nurses' Association, which was held last week, by the kind permission of Mrs. Francis Jeune, at 37, Wimpole Street. The double drawing-rooms were quite full, and amongst the audience I saw the Duchess of St. Albans, the Marchioness of Tweeddale—sister of our hostess—the Lady Mayoress, Lady Halliburton, Lady Lumsden, Lady Galway, Lady Knutsford, the Hon. H. W. Cross, M.P., and Mrs. Cross, Lady William Drummond, Mrs. Priestley, Mrs. Dale, and Dr. and Mrs. Galabin. Punctually at five o'clock H.R.H. Princess Christian took the chair, and called upon Mrs. Ormiston Chant to propose the first resolution.

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It is needless to tell how charmingly this was done, for Mrs. Chant is perhaps one of the most admirable and admired lady speakers of the present day. But Mrs. Chant—who was for some time a Sister at the London Hospital, and knows as well as anyone what Nursing was, is, and should be—was, if possible, more impressive than usual, and completely carried the meeting with her, as she urged the importance of the subject under discussion to the public at large, and the benefits which must result from legal Registration of Nurses. She

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