

wholly consulted her convenience as to the time of her departure. But when from another source I learned that all, or nearly all, the Nursing Staff were leaving with her knowledge and consent, and without having acquainted me, and under circumstances, too, that made it manifest that a conspiracy existed to deprive the Hospital, containing many sick, at one move of its whole Nursing Staff—*then*, and not till then, did I insist upon my legal rights to terminate Sister Clara's connection with the Hospital at the end of the month current.

"Our solicitors, whom I consulted, informed me that I could have done this *at once*, that is, *on the very day* satisfactory proof reached me of the combination, but I preferred the more moderate course.

"Such are *the facts*, so far as I can recall them without reference to my diary or the correspondence. If, in view of these, you still consider Sister Clara's concerns, or the larger considerations of public interest, demand the publication of the correspondence or of your own views of the case (though the latter must necessarily be derived from *ex parte* statements), you are perfectly welcome, so far as I am concerned, to publish the same. But my absence from England will, I regret to say, deprive me of the opportunity of replying to or correcting any statements contained therein which in my judgment would require rejoinder. "I am, dear Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"THOS. J. BARNARDO.

"Nevin, near Pwllheli, Aug. 23, 1889."

(*To be continued.*)

NURSING ECHOES.

** *Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

A FEW weeks ago I described in these columns how Cardiff had been chosen to act as the centre for Wales of the system of District Nursing to be carried out in connection with the Queen Victoria Nursing Institution. I am sorry to hear that the everlasting question of sectarianism has been raised, because only one Nonconformist is placed on the Committee of seven who are to manage the details of the work for Wales. So far as I can learn, the Church party have been doing all the organisation, and will supply to a large extent the necessary funds. But, however large a part the Dissenters are willing to take in keeping up the work, it is a thousand pities that they should attempt to make

Nursing into a sectarian battle-field. It may be charitably supposed that this is being done in ignorance of the fact that Nursing is not a clerical function or a Church service. For the views of Nurses put forward by a Nonconformist gentleman, in a letter to the *South Wales Daily News* of last week, distinctly incline one to that conclusion.

HE writes:—"We have our experience in other places to tell us that Church Nursing, as usually carried on, involves the employment of 'Sisters,' who are confederated in a Guild, and who, in the London Hospitals, have given rise to the gravest complaints. Suppose even that one Nonconformist Nurse were admitted among five of these Sisters, what would her position be in the common house? How would she get on with a Lady Superintendent who rang the household up at five for 'Matins'? These considerations point to the conclusion that it will probably be necessary for those who do not think asceticism and fanaticism the most desirable qualities in a Nurse (not to say the indispensable qualifications) to take measures for forwarding the work on different lines."

I AM very glad to see that the *South Wales Echo* interviewed Dr. Sheen, to whose energy and tact the success already obtained seems largely due, and that he spoke on the matter with no uncertain sound, almost exactly in the same words, by the way, as I have used more than once in these columns. "What," he asked, "had the provision of Nurses for the sick poor to do with creed or party?" Dr. Sheen proceeded to give the representative of our contemporary an interesting account of what is the work to be done by the Queen Victoria Nurses, and how it is to be carried out.

ACCORDING to Dr. Sheen, a negress of much experience in the Nursing capacity summed up her duties in this wise:—"It ain't much trouble to look after sick pussens; most on 'em don' want nothink, an' if they do they don' get it." The concluding part of the sentence is pithy. It contains the whole situation. "If they do, they don't get it."

It is to supply the exact opposite to this phrase that the Nurses' Institute has been founded. Her Majesty Queen Victoria devoted £70,000 of the Women's Jubilee Offering to organise throughout the kingdom a system of District Nursing. The Queen appointed a Committee to draw up a scheme, and they suggested London, Edinburgh, and Dublin as suitable centres. Cardiff was sub-

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