

NURSING ECHOES.

- *.* SPECIAL NOTICE.—To those of our friends—in districts not already arranged for, whether at home or abroad—who will agree to send us regularly (reaching the office not later than Monday morning, first post) original notes or items of Nursing news, or matters of importance occurring in their districts, we shall be pleased to send in exchange free copies of the Nursing Record every Thursday, and also the binding case for each volume as it appears.
- *.* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

In January last the then Matron of the Teignmouth Infirmary suddenly disappeared with about £90, which had been entrusted to her. The facts were well known and I know were noted as another piece of evidence of the necessity of Registration. In the *Hospital* of May 24 appeared the usual weekly onslaught on the British Nurses' Association in the following paragraph:—



“ONE OF THE ELITE.—At a recent meeting of the British Nurses' Association it was announced that eight hundred Nurses had applied for Registration, and that these were mostly Hospital Matrons, Sisters and Nurses, in fact, as one of the honorary secretaries of the Association put it, ‘the elite of the Nursing profession.’ We have often given our opinion as to the quality of Nurses likely to go on this Register, and an important incident with regard to the above phrase has come to our knowledge. We keep at our office, for our private information, a ‘black list’ of those Nurses to whose discredit we have knowledge of certain facts. In January last a Hospital Matron wrote to us giving certain particulars with regard to a Miss Gertrude Johnstone, who had decamped from Teignmouth Infirmary, leaving the committee considerably in debt. In our issue for February 8 we warned all Hospital authorities against this Miss Johnstone, and at the same time we looked her up in the British Nurses' Association list, and there the name appeared. A fortnight ago further information with regard to Miss Johnstone reached us, and we went to Guy's Hospital, with which she said she was connected, but where we found she was utterly unknown. Then curiosity and that happy phrase about the elite tempted us to call at the British Nurses' Association office, and try and find out whether they had any idea where Miss Johnstone was trained (if ever!), or whether they simply never inquired into the references given by would-be members. Ignorance reigned supreme at the British Nurses' Association office; the clerk, who was the only person forthcoming, knew nothing. Then a letter to the Secretary elicited the fact that Miss Gertrude Johnston was among the eight hundred elite who had applied for Registration, and the Secretary requested further information about her. But we do not consider it our duty to make inquiries for the B.N.A. If they cannot even discover such a noted case as this Miss Johnstone's, which appeared both in the local and the London Press, we really cannot undertake their work for them; we do not grudge them their elite, nor do we wish a single name

struck off their Register. And it appears useless for any poor creature once on the Register to try and turn and fly. A well-known Matron, who was on the General Council, sent in her resignation, and received a letter in reply stating that though always glad to add names, they never removed them! We leave the above facts to speak for themselves.”

In the *Hospital* last week appeared the other side of the matter in the shape of the following letter from the well-known Solicitor of the Association, and which is certainly much to the point:—

“3, Old Serjeants' Inn,
“Chancery Lane, London, W.C.
“4th June, 1890.

“Sir,—My attention has just been called to a grossly untrue and malicious attack upon the British Nurses' Association in your issue of May 24th, in the paragraph headed, ‘One of the Elite.’ The Miss Gertrude Johnstone, who was Matron of the Teignmouth Infirmary, is not and has never been a member of the Association, nor has she applied for Registration; consequently the whole of your laboured indictment of the Association tumbles to pieces, and the malice which prompted it recoils on yourself. You have maligned the character of Miss Gertrude W. Johnstone, who is a member of the Association, without taking the slightest trouble to identify her with the late Matron of the Teignmouth Infirmary. You make other equally malicious misstatements, but like the scores of other falsehoods you have printed concerning the Association and its Members, these are deemed beneath notice or contempt. If, however, this letter in its entirety does not appear in this week's issue of the *Hospital*, I am instructed to inform you that steps will forthwith be taken to call public attention to the persistent malice exhibited in your periodical to the British Nurses' Association and its Members. —I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

“F. S. RANDOLPH.

“To the Editor of the *Hospital*, 140, Strand.”

MR. H. C. BURDETT, with reckless malice, has accused a member of the British Nurses' Association of being a criminal. When his paper termed the members of the Association “the scum of the Nursing profession,” he stated that it was “fair criticism.” Now that he is called to account for maligning the character of a most estimable lady, he makes no kind of apology. How much longer are Nurses to be subjected to such intolerable insults? It must be remembered that they have been repeated week by week for nearly three years. Do the Council of the Pension Fund—who, by their money and influence, have created the scheme for the avowed assistance of Nurses, of which Mr. Burdett poses as “the Founder”—approve of their colleague's conduct in thus persistently attacking these same defenceless women?

FROM the *Queenslander* I gather the following interesting information:—“A school for the training of children's Nurses has been established in New York, by Mrs. Robert W. Chapin, of that city, in connection with the Babies' Hospital. The purpose of the school is to train young women to be intelligent, trustworthy, gentle

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