

## NURSING ECHOES.

\*.\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

I HAVE received a good many letters from members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, asking why this Journal has ceased to report its meetings, or give any news concerning it. This is a delightful example of one of the difficulties of journalism, and indeed of life generally—the moral impossibility of pleasing everyone. For nearly



three years, we reported nearly everything we could learn about the Association; we fought its battles, and in fact went out of our way and aroused any amount of animosity against this Journal by supporting the Association through thick and thin. For its two first years of life, indeed, the *Record* and the *Lancet* were the only papers which advocated and assisted the Association. Mr. Editor soon learnt the real truth and underground nature of the opposition to Registration, and in full knowledge of the character of its opponents, took up an attitude which surprised those who were not behind the scenes, because of its uncompromising partisanship of the Association. I have no hesitation in saying that even the managers of the R.B.N.A. have no idea what a number of attacks this Journal has saved them. Some day I, or my successor on the staff, will have the pleasure of proving this, and describing for example how two persons who had—as we knew at the time—pamphlets written, and about to be published, against the Association, relegated these to a wise obscurity rather than expose themselves to be pilloried and criticised in these pages.

BUT, after all our exertions, Mr. Editor received letters from a few members of the R.B.N.A., asking us to say less about the Association, or if possible, nothing at all. These ladies were clearly unaware of what was going on. Now that they have found such immense pressure brought to bear upon the Board of Trade, that the simple request of the Association to be allowed to register as a company without adding the word "Limited," was peremptorily refused, these wise members of the Association may begin to dimly realise—what we have known for long—how vindictive and malicious the opposition to the R.B.N.A. is. Of course, this very animosity measures the success achieved by the Associa-

tion, and how it is feared by those who wish to sweat Nurses, as in days gone by, and who know that a powerful union such as the Association has become, means the annihilation of their profits. So, believing that our friendly objectors were then in ignorance of the truth of the case, we continued to report the proceedings of the Association until the *Nurses' Journal*—its own organ and property—came into existence.

THEN we felt that we might fairly rest upon our oars, and believed that the Association, with the great literary talent it could command, would be well able to defend itself, and keep its members *au courant* with its doings, and so we ceased to devote the space and care to its progress which we had hitherto done with such a thankless result. But the Association, with characteristic caution, decided only to issue its Journal quarterly, and, consequently, our readers have ceased to learn the latest news of the Association from us, and have not received it from their own periodical. The complaints of this have been so very many, and so piteous, that Mr. Editor has determined to take up again his former position, and report at once what news he can learn concerning the Association. I am authorised also to say, here, that in order to prove the great respect and admiration which this Journal entertains for the R.B.N.A.—which is engaged at its own cost in such a great work in consolidating and improving the *status* of the Nursing profession—the *Nursing Record* will, until further notice, be sent post free for twelve months to any Member living in the United Kingdom, on the payment of four shillings instead of the usual amount of six shillings and sixpence. Members desiring to avail themselves of this offer must send, with the postal order for four shillings, the receipt for their current year's subscription to the Association, and a stamped and addressed envelope for the return of the latter. Mr. Editor will be glad if my readers will bring this offer to the notice of any Members of the Association with whom they are acquainted.

I AM also requested to announce that, commencing with this number, the arrangement of matter in this Journal will be much altered, and various new features introduced. Generally speaking, these will explain themselves; but I must call especial attention to the "Letters from Life," which will appear every week, and which will be found to be deeply interesting.

I HEAR that Miss Florence M. Calvert has been appointed to the vacant post of Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, in

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