

medical men—are aware that any appearance even of the independent care of the sick, by Nurses, is much to be deprecated.

THE *Queen* says: "The ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN presided at the annual meeting of the St. Patrick's Home for Trained Nurses, which was held on the 8th instant in the Institution. Mr. GALBRAITH read the report, which contained a special note on the affiliation of the Home with Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, which has proved most satisfactory. The speakers who followed all bore testimony to the creditable state of the Home, and the splendid record of the work achieved during the past year by the Nurses, and special mention was made of Miss HOWELL, the Lady Superintendent, whose skilful management has brought about the present state of efficiency."

AT a recent meeting at the Royal Free Hospital, over which Mr. FORD NORTH presided, Mr. MACKELLAR presented to Mr. GANT, Consulting Surgeon to the Hospital, an address from former resident medical officers. The address (which had taken a year to prepare, owing to the great distances at which many of the former residents lived) expressed their regret at Mr. GANT's retirement from active work at the Hospital, their appreciation of his services to Surgery, and their hope that he would enjoy for many years the rest he had so well earned. Mr. GANT replied, saying how highly he valued this manifestation of the regard of his former assistants.

MR. GANT, I am told, is a Vice-President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and has taken a most kindly and active part in its work since its inception.

THE following letter from Her Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN appeared in last week's medical papers:—

"Sir,—I desire to thank you for the kind and powerful support which you have always given to the Royal British Nurses' Association, and would ask you to accord me space in your widely-read columns to lay its case once more, very briefly, before your readers. It was founded just four years ago, in order to unite Trained Nurses for their mutual aid, and so increase their efficiency and usefulness to medical men and the public. It has already been approved and joined by a considerable number of the leading members of the medical profession in this country, and by more than 3,000 Nurses. It has instituted, and is successfully carrying on, several important schemes to assist its members in their work, and in times of adversity, sickness, and old age. Through

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the efforts of its members in South Africa, a system of Government registration of Nurses became law last year throughout the Cape Colony, while in other parts of the British Empire similar legislation is now being sought for. In this country, I need scarcely remind your readers, any woman, even if destitute of knowledge or of character, can term herself a Trained Nurse. Hospital certificates can be, and have been, forged or stolen, and by such means unworthy persons can obtain, and have obtained, positions of great trust; while genuine Hospital certificates, once given, cannot be recalled or cancelled, even though the recipient, in after years, may give way to habits which render her unworthy of trust, or even commits grave offences against the law. And so it is, unhappily, undeniable that such persons obtain employment, bring danger to the sick and discredit on the nursing vocation and on all their fellow-workers. To remedy these grave evils, it was proposed by the Association that trained and duly qualified Nurses should be enrolled on a general Register to be published annually, and that the names of anyone who might prove to be untrustworthy should be removed from this list. At a cost of great time and trouble, and of about £800, the Association has commenced this work as a *voluntary measure* by publishing a Register, showing the names and addresses of some 1,800 Nurses, with the places and length

Hospital training which each has received. I now venture to appeal to medical men, to whom Nurses already owe so much, and who are so deeply interested in securing good Nurses, to become members of the Association, and give it their assistance and advice. The bye-laws and all other information can be at once obtained upon application to the Secretary, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, Oxford Street, W.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, HELENA, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association.—Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, Mar. 15, 1892."

I QUOTE the following from *The Lancet*, which has consistently encouraged Nurses to persevere in the work of organisation and reform:—

"We publish on another page a letter from H.R.H. Princess CHRISTIAN respecting this Association and its work, which will attract great attention and awaken no small interest throughout the circle of our readers. The manner in which the endeavours of the founders of this Society to create an organisation which shall consolidate and represent the profession of Nursing in Great Britain have been beset and hampered by an interested opposition on the one hand and official perversity on the other is a very recent story, upon which we have been compelled from time to time to speak in terms other and stronger than we should have desired to use. But the difficulties so created have not daunted the promoters of the movement, who are entitled to the credit of having persevered with exemplary determination in the task to which they have set themselves. On the other hand, it cannot be doubted that the very sharp fire of criticism to which the scheme has been subjected has enabled its framers to perfect its details, as they probably could not have done without this assistance, although the tone and manner of the criticism have absolved them from any oppressive sense of gratitude to their critics. The result of this not too genial co-operation is before our readers in the abstract of the Draft Charter, which we publish on another page. From that abstract it will be seen that H.R.H. the President is supported by a distinguished body of corporators, whose eminence cannot fail to satisfy the Privy Council that the scheme commands the cordial support of at least a fully representative body of medical men and nursing authorities. If it should be necessary to renew at Whitehall the discussion which has been carried on in the press

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