

Nursing Echoes.

* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.



A CONJOINT Meeting of the Executive Committee and Registration Board of the Royal British Nurses took place at 27, Queen Ann Street, the residence of Mr. BRUDENELL CARTER, on Tuesday, for discussion concerning a scheme of importance to Registered Nurses and the public. Her Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN was present, and gave the meeting the value of her opinion and advice.

THE following letter appeared in the *British Medical Journal* of the 27th inst. :—

“SIR,—Your correspondent “Medicus” states in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of January 20th, that the Royal British Nurses’ Association is ‘understood’ to be the lessee of the house lately occupied by the deceased Sir Morell Mackenzie, and to have sublet portions of the house to tenants ‘of no uncertain notoriety.’

“Allow me to state that the very small amount of inquiry which would have been necessary to verify that assertion would have elicited the fact that the Association have leased no more than one storey in the house in question.

“It is scarcely necessary for me to point out that the Royal Corporation of Nurses cannot possibly exercise any control over any portion of the house of which they are not the legal occupiers, nor accept any responsibility for its disposal.—I am, etc., W. BEZLY THORNE, Hon. Sec.

January 22nd.

It will hardly surprise those acquainted with the “tactics” of the *Journal*, to find that no word of apology has been tendered to the Royal British Nurses’ Association for the false and anonymous statement of “Medicus,” which was permitted to appear in its issue of the previous week !

THE Up-Country Nursing Association for Europeans in India has begun a very necessary work, and it is to be hoped that in time it will be enabled to extend its area, and meet a great and crying need in our Eastern Empire. The QUEEN has given her patronage to the scheme, and H.R.H. the Duchess of CONNAUGHT is its President.

THERE are at present some half-dozen Nursing organizations at work in India, such as the Clewer, Wantage, and All-Saints Sisterhoods, and the Indian Nursing Service for Soldiers, to which Lady

ROBERTS has rendered valuable assistance. At Poonah, in the Bombay Presidency, there is an “Up-Country Nursing Association” working on co-operative principles in conjunction with the Wantage Sisters and the Sassoon Hospital, which has already benefitted many in that part of India. But none of these organizations have sufficient funds to enable them to undertake cases far from their immediate centres. These centres, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, and Poonah, being few in number, a glance at the map will show what a large proportion of India, commonly described as “Up-Country,” is left totally unprovided with trained Nurses.

It is no exaggeration to say that if, for every Nurse now in India there could, in the course of the coming year, be despatched and established ten more, the demand would still be in excess of the supply. Every year there are hundreds of patients scattered all over India, suffering from typhoid and malarial fevers, dysentery, and the like—all diseases well known to require nursing more than any other treatment—the majority of whom have to battle through their sickness alone, or attended only by their kind but inexperienced friends.

Nurses for these cases are frequently unobtainable for the following reasons:—(1) Because, the number of Nurses in India being most inadequate, no Nurse is available for a distant case. (2) Because a Nurse’s travelling expenses to a distance, in addition to her fees, R. 150 (about £10) per month, put a prohibitive price on her services to any but the highest paid officials. (3) Because a large proportion of patients cannot afford to pay at all.

To overcome these difficulties, and to meet the great and growing demand for Nurses, the ultimate objects of this Association are :—(1) To organize that a more adequate supply of Nurses shall be at the command of Europeans of all classes in up-country stations and elsewhere; and (2) To this end to enrol every European resident, whether civil servants, political or military officials, merchants, engineers, planters, railway and other managers, and their *employés*, as members, and yearly subscribers of a comparatively small sum to branches of the Association in their own district, thereby entitling them to the services of a Nurse in illness, at a rate proportionate to their means.

It is anticipated that this co-operative system will be in great measure self-supporting. But it is impossible that it should be so altogether, owing to the large class of European residents in India who

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