

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



HER Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, has returned to Cumberland Lodge from Germany, where she has been resting from her arduous duties for two months. We feel sure all the members of the Association will welcome her home with heartfelt pleasure.

WE have received several letters in answer to the question, "Why have trained Nurses cramped minds?" which we intend to publish next week. Meanwhile, we have been greatly interested in a Paper, in this month's *Trained Nurse*, "The Question of Nurses' Directories," by Miss LAVINIA L. DOCK, the able Superintendent of the Illinois Training School at Chicago, and which incidentally touches upon some of the reasons.

Miss Dock opens her paper with the following remarks:—"The time is coming when graduate Nurses, as a body of professional working women, must know how to manage their own business affairs. Heretofore these have been managed for them, and often on a system ranging the trained Nurse along with untrained Nurses, domestic servants, and unclassified help. Up to the present time, graduate Nurses have been entirely dependent for their private work on the various conditions found existing in the place where their training had been obtained, or where chance led them, So far, being as yet largely unorganized and numerically insignificant, they have themselves exerted no positive control over the management of directories, nor have they even guided such management to any appreciable extent by dint of personal influence. What arrangements they find, they accept."

Is not this a fact? and is not it inevitable that a person who is "thought for" very soon loses reasoning power? Of all work where it is necessary that the reasoning faculty should be highly developed, nursing the sick, with its stupendous responsibility, stands first, and it is just in the non-development of "thinking for themselves," that so far our system of Nurse training has been faulty. It is useless to deny the fact that the majority of

Nurses, after a long spell of Hospital life under kindly and organized supervision, are rendered less practical than women whose work necessitates reliance upon their own judgment in the battle of life.

Miss Dock goes on to point out that the Training Schools should control the Directories, that is co-operations of private Nurses, and says:—"Already a tendency to take the whole thing away from them is shown by the medical societies, into whose hands, I do not hesitate to declare, Nurses' Directories should *never* fall, but into whose hands they *will* fall, unless the schools bestir themselves to prevent it.

Already, in Boston and Philadelphia, the Directories for Nurses are under the control of the medical societies. Each city has one large central Directory.

The registry fees of the Nurses should cover the expenses of the registry, and if any surplus remain, it should be divided among them. Why should private duty Nurses be a source of revenue to the managers of Directories, either directly or indirectly? Yet the profits from both the Boston and Philadelphia Directories are considerable, and the *Medical Record* some time since stated that it was anticipated the directory of the Academy would in a short time be not only self-supporting, but a source of income. Why should it be a source of income? And is the fact that it will be so, creditable either to the medical profession or to Nurses? There should be no suspicion of the commercial element in the relation between Doctor and Nurse. Moreover, I contend that the management of Nurses' Directories by the medical societies tends to develop a quality of subserviency in the Nurse's personal attitude to the physician, with a corresponding loss of esteem on his part, and that both tend to deteriorate thereby.

The Training School should stand centre and front in the organization of Directories, and present the most determined opposition to any influence tending to deprive them of this important and responsible prerogative. But they can only do this effectually by dropping the exclusive and distant attitude which they maintain toward one another, and by combining to meet the conditions of the day.

If centralized Directories are more acceptable to physicians and to the public, why should not the different schools of the great cities unite to organize and control them in the right way, instead of standing isolated as they do at present, going on in

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