

Nursing Echoes.

* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



As we have received so many letters concerning the procedure of business at the Annual Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, we are not surprised that the members were somewhat mystified. The facts are as follows:—Upon a distinct promise upon the part of the medical members that the Bye-laws should be re-considered and recast in

October, the Nurse members on the Executive Committee consented to defer consideration of all contentious matters at the Annual Meeting, with the consequence that merely formal business was considered.

As matters are now the General Meeting requisitioned by the sixty-nine members still stands postponed, and in consequence the alteration in the Bye-law which they desired to make, constituting the Council, so as to make it conform to the original arrangement, whereby certain Matrons had seats on it by right of office, has not been submitted to a meeting of the Corporation. We hope that upon further reflection no further attempt will be made to deny to the members the rights they enjoy under the Charter of calling a general meeting if they think it advisable; but should this indefensible policy, however, be persisted in, the members must firmly insist that a general meeting be called, and that the question of *ex-officio* representation be decided, once and for all, by the votes of the members themselves. A Separatist policy is always a weak policy, and we have little doubt if "we go to the country" that the Nurse members will support the Union with an overpowering majority. That the Nurses will quietly submit to be denied all voice in the management of their own Association, is not to be entertained for a moment, and we feel sure that the public and the great body of the medical profession who are in most kindly sympathy with the better education of trained

Nurses, would deprecate a policy which places this great body of workers under the absolute control of an official ring.

In initiating the Royal British Nurses' Association for the purpose of professional organisation and greater efficiency in the performance of their duties, the Nurses have shown power and discretion for seven years in the conduct of their affairs. It is now too late to deprive them of the rights and privileges which they have been granted by the Queen in Council.

A VERY pleasing, interesting, and unanimous presentation has been made to Miss Margaret F. Rogers, who has been Nurse of the Ticehurst Union Infirmary for over eight years, and who is leaving to fill the position of Matron of the East Grinstead Union. The presentation (the gift of the indoor and outdoor staff) consists of a splendid complete five o'clock tea service and silver-mounted biscuit jar. She leaves the Ticehurst Union with the best and hearty good wishes of all for her future advancement.

THE newly-formed Association of Asylum Workers defines its objects as being mainly directed—

- (1) Towards improving generally the status of Asylum Nurses and attendants.
- (2) To secure the sympathy and co-operation of all those interested in Institutional work and efforts.
- (3) To provide a "Home of Rest and Nursing" for those engaged in asylum work, no such home being in existence.

A WRITER in the *Queen* raises the question, "Are Nurses abandoning their uniforms?" this query being the outcome of the annual meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, at which the writer of the article complains that a large proportion of the Nurses appeared in "unofficial garb." It seemed to us that a very large number came in their hospital uniforms; but as one of the Sisters present remarked, "It always makes me feel as if I am out for a day's enjoyment when I put on the ordinary clothes of every-day life." So, many Nurses agree that gala attire should not consist of the work-a-day hospital gown.

SIR BENJAMIN WARD RICHARDSON, in an article in *Longmans'*, discusses a scheme of "Hotel Hospitals," which he hopes will supersede the present plan of home Nursing. He says:—"My ideal is that in all communities there should be, according to the numbers statis-

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