

Progress at the Holborn Union Infirmary.

THE Guardians of the Holborn Union have agreed to establish a system of appointing Probationary Nurses in the place of Assistant Nurses, and decided that at the termination of three years' good service, and after an examination conducted in the presence of an independent medical man, certificates of efficiency be awarded to Nurses, on the recommendation of the Medical Superintendent, such certificates to be signed by the Chairman of Committee, the Medical Superintendent and Matron of the Infirmary, the Clerk to the Guardians, and the Examiner. We congratulate the Board upon this wise and progressive step, especially upon their decision to have their Nurses examined by a medical man other than those by whom they have been instructed.

With the institution of a Nursing School in connection with the Holborn Infirmary, it is to be hoped that the Matron will be permitted the full responsibility and control of her own department, on the lines which have proved wise and beneficial in the organisation of our Hospitals. It is the only arrangement by which friction can be avoided.

With the Sick in the Soudan.

AT Wady Halfa, is the base Hospital of the present Expedition, but, as far as possible, the wards of the Halfa Hospital will be kept comparatively clear and ready for emergencies by the transference of all suitable cases to the General Hospital at Cairo. The base Hospital stands ready with its 140 beds, but this accommodation can be materially increased by Hospital tents, of which there are enough to accommodate some two hundred patients. In the stifling heat of the Soudan, tents are by no means desirable, as they cannot be kept cool. The sun strikes down cruelly on the canvas, and the glare of light is very trying to the sick. In buildings heat *can* be kept out to an appreciable extent, and by means of dark blinds a restful darkness, which only those who have been in a tropical climate thoroughly appreciate, can easily be arranged. As far as possible grass huts are to be used, as these are so much cooler than tents. These grass huts were used in the Egyptian campaign of 1884, and found much favour from the medical and nursing staffs. So far the health of the troops has been excellent, but in view of the deadliness of the climate it has been absolutely necessary to make extensive preparation for the care and treatment of large numbers of sick soldiers.

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."



DEAR MADAM,—As I feel strongly, with many other Matrons and members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, the great injustice of our proposed new Council list, by which the Sisters and Nurses of the Middlesex Hospital and Chelsea Infirmary have been given 25 votes out of 100, I have communicated with the Executive Committee on the subject. I shall be obliged if you will publish my letter, and the reply received. I much regret that the question of just representation of the whole Association on the Governing Body is quite ignored in the reply, and it therefore remains for the members who object to nearly one-quarter of the Nurses' List being formed by members in the Institution over which the hon. officials preside, and therefore who are largely under their influence and authority, to take some united step to protest against such a dangerous precedent being established.

I remain, yours faithfully,

CHARLOTTE OKELL.

To the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—As one of the very few Matrons who attended the last General Council Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, I feel compelled to address a few lines to you on the most serious question of the proposed constitution of the Council for 1896-7. As one of the oldest members of the Council and Corporation, and one of its most earnest supporters, I trust my letter may have a little weight and consideration, and that it is not too late to revise the proposed list. Do you not think it would be much better for the good of the Corporation to have a more representative Council, and not to select so many members from one London School? What I should suggest would be that each retiring member who is connected with a Hospital should be written to, and asked if there was any suitable member of the Royal British Nurses' Association in that Hospital who could be suggested to fill her place, so that *that* Hospital could still be represented.

I must say I feel the slight thrown upon the provincial Hospitals very strongly indeed. I have been a member of the Corporation and of the Council (with the exception of my one year of retirement from the latter) since the day of its foundation. I have worked this little Hospital up, it has become a Training School for Nurses,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)