

Nursing Echoes.

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A CONFERENCE to discuss the advisability of forming a Nursing Sub-Committee has been convened by the National Union of Women Workers, and will be held at 53, Berners Street, the office of the National Health Society, which has been lent for the occasion, on Thursday, the 10th inst., at 2.30 p.m.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK's paper on "The Better Organization of the Nursing Profession," which was read by request at the last Annual Conference of the Union, specially pleaded for the interest of women in this most womanly of professions, and it is to be hoped that the important question of nursing the sick, and how it can be most efficiently accomplished, for all classes, will receive the attention of this representative body of women workers.

THE battle royal between Professor Victor Horsley and Mr. Brudenell Carter has raged in the medical press, and Mr. Horsley has wisely intimated, acting in conjunction with his solicitor, that any further publication of Mr. Carter's "foul abuse" of his honour must be at his own risk. Nurse members of the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association will not consider Mr. Horsley's language at all too strong, and it is high time this irascible old gentleman should be muzzled by the law, as that appears the only available method. Members of the Chartered Nurses' Society must indeed feel a sense of security in having their Committee—from which all representation of the members is rigorously excluded—composed of Mr. Brudenell Carter and his kind!

MR. MARK HOVELL is the Hon. Secretary to Miss Etta Jackson's "Co." We hear the members are somewhat inquisitive as to the amount of salary they pay their Secretary. In the report of the Society—printed without a balance-sheet—in 1897 this item of expenditure did not appear. We are not sanguine that their excusable curiosity will be gratified in 1898.

WE consider the Annual Report of the Bristol Nurses' Training Institution highly satisfactory, showing as it does that the high standard of three years' training is demanded in the nurses elected on

the staff. At the recent Annual Meeting, Miss O'Brien, the Hon. Secretary, read the following report:—

"The report which the committee have to present for the year 1897 has some unusual features as regards the character of the nursing work done. Three parts of the year were much as usual in satisfactory seasons, giving a sufficiency of steady employment without undue strain. But, as our friends are aware, in the late autumn there was an outbreak of typhoid fever in Clifton, which severely taxed the nursing resources of the town, not only because of the extreme importance of thoroughly good nursing in such cases, but also from the great length of time these cases may last. As the typhoid fever was succeeded by influenza and measles, the institution had its hands more than full of work. It is unfortunate that this pressure should have come just when the difficulty of keeping up the numbers of the staff, owing to the lengthened training of the nurses, begins to make itself felt. This difficulty was foreseen, and is only a temporary inconvenience, as in due time the nurses will begin to return from their three years' training, but a period is inevitable during which the institution may be short of the full staff. Three trained nurses were received during the year, keeping the number up to 40 at the end of December. There were 478 cases nursed, 250 of them in Clifton and the neighbourhood, an unusually large proportion, but easily accounted for by the foregoing circumstances, and 1594 weeks' work was done. On the whole the health of the nurses has been good, although one nurse was off work for three months in the summer, from typhoid fever. This, it may be said, was not caught in Clifton, but at a distance, and the nurse entirely recovered. With this exception, and some slight surgical matters requiring rest and attention, the health of the nurses has permitted them to work with great steadiness, and there have been unusually few unemployed days. Eight probationers are in training, and one nurse was given an extra maternity training at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, and gained a satisfactory certificate. Financially, the institution is prospering, as shown by the balance sheet appended, the balance in favour of the institution on the year's income amounting to £302 12s. 10d. The committee have, therefore, decided not to accept any fresh subscribers, as the existence of two rates of payment for nursing leads to practical difficulties without counter-balancing advantage. The present subscribers will retain their privileges as long as they like to subscribe. The committee continues to receive very gratifying testimony to the efficiency of the nurses' work in general. At the nurses' earnest request, a badge in blue and white enamel was issued to them this year, which should distinguish the Bristol Institution nurses from others and commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, as well as the date of the founding of the institution in 1862."

It was stated that Miss O'Brien had tendered her resignation of the post of Hon. Secretary on account of her leaving Clifton. The meeting expressed regret at losing the services of so valuable a secretary, and Miss Morton was appointed to fill her place.

A propos of the influence of the Alma Mater to which we referred last week, the following portion

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)