

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



MISS H. C. NORMAN, Lady Superintendent of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, is inviting the public to send her Berlin wool, canvas, and similar materials, to be made up by sick and wounded soldiers, many of whom are likely to be under treatment in that institution for months to come. The brave fellows can bear anything but idleness. No doubt the Sisters in charge of other military hospitals would also welcome gifts of the same kind.

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THE Royal British Nurses' Association has now definitely taken the attitude of a philanthropic society, and is beginning a campaign in the provinces, hoping thereby to enlist the sympathy of the charitable, and to bring money into its coffers. From information sent to us we learn that Mr. Langton, the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Georgina Scott, and Mrs. Hind, attended and addressed a meeting at Harrogate last week, when Mr. Langton defined the objects of the Association as follows:—The maintenance of a benevolent fund, and of a settlement fund to provide houses and apartments for nurses who were old and incapacitated, to appoint fifty lady consuls, representative of the Association in different parts of the country, the maintenance of the Chartered Nurses' Society, and of the Nurses' Auxiliary Association. Members of this latter Association were "over 41" and "useful in undertaking chronic cases." Miss Scott followed on the same lines, and Mrs. Hind read a paper on the Auxiliary Association. The object for which the R.B.N.A. was originally founded—to obtain legal status for nurses—was, of course, no part of its present policy!

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THE Chairman of the meeting was the Rev. L. E. W. Foote, Vicar of St. Peter's, who was supported on the platform by several of his clerical brethren. For those who like patronage, and philanthropy, the meeting was, no doubt, an ideal one; but even in these days we believe that members of the Royal British Nurses' Association would object, if the matter were placed before them, to be dragged before the charitable public *in forma pauperis*, and we have

no hesitation in expressing our belief that the members have not been consulted on this matter, but that the Hon. Officers have, as usual, arranged this meeting without reference to the ex-officio members of the Governing Body.

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A CORRESPONDENT writes:—"I read with great interest the admirable article on 'Justice,' in the RECORD, and I am of opinion that our duty in this respect is one that we need to keep constantly before us. Though I am an out and out "woman's woman," I do not think that justice, as a rule, is a virtue which is highly cultivated by women. They are swayed too much by their affections. But, in a ruler, things which may pass as defects in others become grave faults, and I entirely agree with "A Member of the Matrons' Council" in her belief that there is nothing of which we need stand more in fear than of being unjust. Indeed, I do not think that anyone who does not realize her responsibility in this respect, and who is not striving as far as in her lies to be absolutely and inflexibly just is fit for power or should be entrusted with the reins of government. I myself was fortunate in being trained under a Matron who was essentially just, and when I was appointed to a Matron's post myself, I put her example in this respect always before me as one to be imitated as far as possible. I hold it as the greatest compliment that ever was paid me that a nurse who had given me some trouble was heard to say, 'Whatever Matron was, she was just.' It showed me that I had not wholly failed in my aspirations, and also that nurses who may rebel at the enforcement of discipline resent it less if they believe that justice is being meted out to them. If we succeed in establishing a reputation for justice we need not trouble as to whether or not our rule is a popular one. Indeed, popularity is an attribute concerning the possession of which we must be severely indifferent, for a love of popularity on the part of a Matron is many a time the ruin of the training school. It has been well said that facility in a ruler is a vice to be guarded against."

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THE question has been raised as to whether the "war nurses" will settle down again on their return home, or whether their South African experiences will imbue them with a spirit of restlessness. The reply to the question cannot be given without regard to the character of the nurse, and therefore it is impossible to answer off hand for all in the same manner. There is a saying, and a true one, that whoever has once drunk African waters is never happy until he drinks them again, and we do not doubt that many of those who have nursed through the

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