

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* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



Will our readers note that the International Congress of Women (as apart from the business meetings) will open in Berlin on Monday, June 13th next, and will last throughout the week, closing on Saturday, June 18th, so that those who intend to be present should make arrangements accordingly?

The Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses will be held on one day during the same week to enable the members to attend to their own business and, at the same time, take part in the instructive and social gatherings arranged in connection with the International Congress of Women, organised by the German National Council.

It is hoped that the nurses from the various countries will find time to meet together round the festive board at a banquet, where, no doubt, they will be inspired to the exchange of compliments, of a delicate and flattering order, which will revive the memories of that most animated gathering arranged by the Matrons' Council at the last international meeting in London in 1899.

The official report of recent meetings, and the proposed programme for the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Berlin, will be published next week.

We would remind our readers that Miss Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, is kindly interesting herself in the details of travel, board, residence, &c, for nurses and their friends who would like to make up a party of twenty to attend the Congress in Berlin, so that all communications on this matter should be addressed to her.

We are glad that the action of the Matrons' Council in initiating a fund for a memorial to the Nursing Sisters who died in the service of their country in South Africa seems likely to meet with sympathetic support. Nor is this surprising, when we remember that at the close of the Crimean War public sentiment was so strong that the people subscribed £50,000 as a national testimonial to Miss Florence Nightingale, which, with true states-

manlike perception, she at once applied to a purpose which would benefit not only the nurses, but the nation, namely, the foundation of the Nightingale Training School for Nurses; the first school in this country in which a system of nursing education was founded on a scientific basis. This school was taken as the model of, and sent out its pupils to organise, other training-schools, and the children, even outstripping their parent, are now continuing the good work all the world over. We hope that, whatever form the memorial proposed by the Matrons' Council may take, it will be one which will benefit not only the public but the nation at large.

Princess Louise has now almost completed the bronze memorial to the Colonials who fell in the South African War, which is to be placed in St. Paul's. The memorial, about 12 ft. high, represents two allegorical figures, and now only a small part of the wing of one figure remains to be modelled for the whole to be ready for the bronze casting.

We often hear the complaint that at forty a woman is no longer acceptable as a private nurse. We do not, think, however, this is the general opinion of the public, nor can any hard-and-fast rule be laid down with regard to the age limit. Age is after all a matter of temperament rather than years. We know many private nurses over forty well qualified for their work, and we hope they will continue it for many years to come. Experience, not only of professional work, but also in the methods of dealing tactfully with the many varieties of temperament with which she comes in contact, is a great asset in the equipment of a trained nurse.

The managers of the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum have decided to engage six male nurses. The Medical Superintendent, Dr. Spurrell, is of opinion that the nursing of some male patients is unsuited to women, and one of the wards at the asylum is to be managed by male nurses. As at present the number of general training-schools admitting male probationers is extremely limited—if not non-existent—these vacancies should be eagerly sought after. We hope, however, that a woman will be placed in charge of the ward as Sister. Nursing can only be taught by nurses, and mere experience, without expert instruction in the best methods of work, can never rank as training, or attract the most desirable class of applicants.

We are glad to note that the *Lancet* is opening its columns to the discussion of the burning question of private nursing homes. In no branch of nursing is there a greater variety of standards—in many cases an absolute lack of any professional standard—than in the management of these homes, and the public pay full fees, whether the nursing they receive is skilled or unskilled. We fear, however, that until the medical

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