

### Miss Nightingale Touched.

Sixty members of the Crimea and Indian Mutiny Veterans' Association, Bristol, have sent a letter of sympathy to Miss Nightingale in her illness, to which her secretary has replied: "Miss Nightingale was much touched when I read her your letter, and desired to send her very sincere thanks to you for your kind expression of sympathy. I am happy to say that there is no cause for anxiety at present, and that Miss Nightingale is now almost as well as usual, but her sight is not at all good."

### International News.

We learn from Baroness Mannerheim, the Hon. Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses for Finland, that the nurses in that progressive land have eagerly bought up the 22 volumes of Transactions of the Paris Conference sent to that country for disposal, and are deeply interested in the work of the Council. The reports of the Buffalo and Berlin meetings are to be acquired for the Library of the Finnish Nurses' Association, and, if possible, a complete set of the NURSING RECORD, now the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Baroness Mannerheim writes: "We are now also contemplating the issue of a paper in January next. Of course, it will be edited by nurses, and I do think it will be a great boon to have it."

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, mother of professional nursing journals, now nearing its majority—heartily welcomes the coming of the Finnish Nurses' journalistic babe. We feel sure it will be full of vigour.

### Irish Matrons' Association.

The Irish Matrons' Association has honoured Miss Isla Stewart, President of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Hon. President, International Council of Nurses, by inviting them to become Honorary Members of their Association. Both ladies have signified their sincere appreciation of the distinction thus conferred upon them, and have accepted with pleasure.

### Irish Nurses' Association.

On Wednesday evening, the 11th inst., Dr. Gibbon FitzGibbon, gave an interesting

lecture on "The Combination of Pregnancy with Disease" to the members of the above Association, at their rooms, 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin. The Lecture was much appreciated by all present, and at its close a hearty vote of thanks was conveyed to the Lecturer by Mrs. Kildare Treacy, President of the Association.

### Progress of State Registration.

At the recent meeting of the R.B.N.A., Sir James Crichton Browne, who was in the chair, stated that "it was with no selfish aim that the Association had always supported the State Registration of Nurses, the need of which had been emphasised by a Select Committee of the House of Commons." The unblushing effrontery of this statement is almost amusing. Sir James presumably forgets he was in the chair when the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. supported the hon. officers, who, at a public meeting, had voted for the following resolution:—"That a legal system of Registration of Nurses is inexpedient in principle, and injurious to the best interests of nurses, and of doubtful public benefit," an action which caused civil war in the Association, as it cut at the root of the principles for which we nurses had founded it, and which compelled us to found other societies to accomplish our aims.

The whirligig of Time indeed brings round its own revenges!

### THE R.B.N.A. DIPLOMA.

It has been asserted by a lay nursing paper that the Medico-Political Committee of the British Medical Association has, in relation to the diploma of the R.B.N.A., passed a resolution that though it entirely disapproved of the creation of a diploma by a private body, it did not disapprove of steps being taken for the higher education of nurses. We are officially informed that the matter is still under the consideration of a Subcommittee of the Medico-Political Committee of the B.M.A., and that so far no definite action has been taken in regard to it.

In this connection it is well to recall the evidence on this point of Sir Victor Horsley before the Committee on Registration of the House of Commons. In answer to the Chairman he said: "1102. I may say . . . the feeling of the Association (B.M.A.) is absolutely against any private system of registration.

1103. Any voluntary system? Quite so; it must be a statutory system. The Association appreciates the work which the Royal British Nurses' Association has done. But the time has come to take the matter out of its private capacity, and to put it into a statutory capacity. We think that alone will afford the necessary safety to the public."

With this we agree—a legal nursing diploma or nothing. The time has gone past for a voluntary system to be of any use.

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