

## NURSING ECHOES.

The public, with whom she is a great favourite, learned with concern that Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice, who is in residence at Kensington Palace, W., had fractured her left forearm, and that subsequently bronchitis supervened. We are glad to know that four skilled Registered Nurses are in attendance, well qualified to carry out medical directions.

We are informed that temporary accommodation has been found for "The 1930 Fund" (for the benefit of trained District Nurses) within the College of Nursing Building, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.1. Until further notice all communications should be addressed to the Secretary of the Fund, at the College. The preliminary arrangements for the administration of this Fund are now complete, and it is hoped it may provide much needed help to many nurses in this branch of the profession, who have often received in the past very inadequate salaries.

It is necessary to emphasise once again that this gift is for the benefit of those trained nurses who are, or have been, engaged in District Nursing, and who are in need of assistance. Only those who come under this category are eligible for assistance from this Benevolent Fund.

Periodically, the College of Nursing distributes to its members a little leaflet, headed "Important Notice," as follows:—

"State Registered Nurses who receive information regarding a 'British College of Nurses' are asked not to confuse it with the College of Nursing."

The least the College of Nursing can do is to refer to The British College of Nurses by its right title, and not substitute a contemptuous little "a" for its prefix "The." There would then be less likelihood of confusion.

But why should confusion arise? and why should nurses have only one College when every other profession has several? Moreover, there is room for these two institutions because they represent two distinct forms of organisation, and it is well that nurses should have a free choice to support the one in whose basic principles they believe. The College of Nursing is governed by a cooperative Council composed of the laity controlling Nursing Schools and their Matrons, prominent medical men, and a sprinkling of nurses. It is not strictly a professional body and seldom voices unpopular opinion. Moreover, the hon. officers who largely control its policy are medical men and laymen.

On the other hand, the Governing Body of the British College of Nurses is composed entirely of Registered Nurses, who vigilantly watch professional affairs, and without hesitation publicly express expert nursing opinion. There is room for both organisations; no doubt they stimulate one another. All we ask is that nurses in hospitals may be permitted to choose to which organisation they wish to belong without pressure on the part of authority in this connection, which, we regret to learn, is not always the case.

The College leaflet reminds us of an incident impressed upon our mind in youth. A court-martial was being discussed by two officers.

"And why," enquired one, "so severe a sentence for so venial an offence?"

"The prisoner," replied the other, "was given an extra ten days for *looking contemptuous!*"

We would invite the College of Nursing when next alluding in print to The British College of Nurses, not "to look contemptuous," and to refer to it by its right title.

We have received quite a little shower of cuttings from the *Glasgow Herald* of January 7th, calling our attention to a short article by "Elizabeth Sloan Chesser, M.D.," on "Nursing in the Home: Lives that May be Lost and Saved." To quote:—

"The fact that good nursing is the deciding point in a patient's recovery in such illnesses as typhoid fever and pneumonia has been stated by many observant physicians. *Professional nurses, except in sheer necessity, are too expensive for most homes.* Yet sickness comes to all of us sometimes, and a knowledge of nursing should be an essential part of the education of every woman. . . .

"An elementary knowledge of the signs and symptoms of the common infectious diseases is useful where there are children, as every doctor knows. Measles is like cold in the head in its early stages, and mild scarlet fever may be missed altogether by a mother who knows nothing of sick nursing. The same thing is true of diphtheria and sub-acute rheumatism, which, for lack of good nursing, may result in heart disease. Many people are suffering from heart affections to-day for lack of care after infectious ailments, to poor nursing when they had an attack of influenza. . . .

"The time of good resolutions is upon us. At the beginning of the year classes are being arranged at every centre where there is a demand. To learn something new enlarges the personality of every woman, increases her value. Every subject is interesting, *provided we approach it in the right way*, and if we take care to excel, whether it be literature, or dancing, skating, or sick nursing."

We wonder what Dr. Sloan Chesser would say if a Registered Nurse was to express the opinion in the public Press that the medical faculty were far too expensive to be called in to cases of typhoid, pneumonia, common infectious diseases, measles, mild scarlet fever, diphtheria, and sub-acute rheumatism! and class the value of medicine in the body politic with dancing and skating, or even "sick nursing."

The truth is that depreciation of skilled and registered nursing by medical women and the assumption that a dangerous smattering of knowledge on the part of a nurse—*so long as she is cheap*—is an unjustifiable pose. Our advice to the public is to procure efficient, highly skilled nursing at any cost. More valuable lives and beloved people are saved alive by it than can be estimated. Do not wait for "sheer necessity." Call in a Registered Nurse *in time*.

Sir Walter Runciman's splendid gift of £50,000 to build the new Nurses' Home at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, has now been supplemented by £25,000 to provide more accommodation for the sick and suffering poor in the Northern Counties. To attempt to enlarge our hospitals without first pro-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)