

Kensington, and Miss Mollett, of the Chelsea Infirmaries, are now found willing to accept the matronship in these institutions.

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CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL has initiated a plan which I sincerely hope will before long be adopted by every other general hospital in the kingdom. It has opened a new ward for the admission of cases brought into the hospital during the night, so as not to disturb the patients in the general wards. Who does not remember, or failed to sympathise with, patients worn out with suffering, and just lulled to sleep—perhaps by morphia—suddenly roused, often not to sleep again, by the sudden opening of the door, and the porters' steady tramp, as they brought into the hushed ward, in the small hours of the morning, a bad fracture case, or an inebriate suffering from skull or scalp injury. All credit therefore to Charing Cross for making such a good innovation. It could not have been made by a more fitting hospital, for under Sister Rosa's firm but popular rule, Charing Cross has become a model in cleanliness, order, and efficiency, of what a hospital should be. To my mind, indeed, its wards are always perfect pictures, and I know most good judges of nursing matters fully agree with me.

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THE METROPOLITAN AND NATIONAL NURSING ASSOCIATION held its annual meeting at Grosvenor House last week. The Duke of Westminster has been the president of the association for many years, and it is to his princely generosity and shrewd advice that much of the success of the association is due. Year by year it is enlarging the sphere of its influence and usefulness. It has branches scattered all over the metropolitan area, and also at many towns in the provinces, working under the direction of local committees. Miss Florence Lees (now Mrs. Dacre Craven) was a prime mover in the foundation of the scheme, and when she retired, her mantle fell upon the shoulders of Miss Emily Mansel, to whose energy, tact, and business capacity, the association owes perhaps more of its great and ever increasing success than even to the assistance of its president. I am the more glad of an opportunity of saying this, as Miss Mansel's most conspicuous characteristic is such complete self-effacement, that only those who know intimately the working of the association can realise the value of her labours on its behalf.

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THERE have been large and very successful meetings held last week to discuss the question of registration for nurses. One at the Kensington Infirmary, by the invitation of Miss Close, when Miss Wood gave an address on the subject, and upon the advantages of nurses joining the British Nurses' Association, and becoming members of a strong—because united—professional body, instead of mere scattered units as

they have all hitherto been. The other was held at the Royal Free Hospital, by the consent of the Board of Management. Dr. Bedford Fenwick took the chair, and made the following remarks, which Mr. Editor asks me to insert here.

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"As I am informed that a representative of *The Nursing Record*—a new, but, I believe, already an influential journal—is present this evening, I shall be glad of the opportunity to make a statement which perhaps may thereby reach a larger audience than that before me now. It has been stated on behalf of the National Pension Fund for Nurses, that the British Nurses' Association is, and has been, endeavouring to prevent nurses from joining it; that the association desires the fund to fail. I desire to give those statements the most unqualified denial. They are completely false and can only have been disseminated by most untruthful people. The British Nurses' Association can only act through its council or executive committee. The former body has not met at all since the fund was started; the latter, to my certain knowledge, has never even considered the question. But, on the other hand, one of the most influential medical members of the executive committee is also a member of the council of the fund."

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"THAT alone would be clear evidence of the falsity of the statement of which I complain. I may go further and say, that if the British Nurses Association had time to consider the matter, and were convinced that the National Pension Fund would be advantageous to nurses, I am certain it would devote all its energies to forwarding the scheme. I am well aware that many members of the association hold strong views upon the subject, but their opinions, and even any action they may individually take, cannot possibly bind, or be charged to, the association as a whole. I repeat in the most decided manner, that the British Nurses' Association has never taken, and I believe will never take, the slightest action against the National Pension Fund, but would wish it fair play and a free opportunity to convince nurses of its asserted benefits. But, on the other hand, I would venture to state my belief that the friends of the Fund are not by any means strengthening its cause by making false statements about the British Nurses' Association, or railing accusations against an independent and honourable medical journal because it exercises its full right to criticise the scheme." Dr. Bedford Fenwick then explained what registration meant, and a most interesting discussion followed which lasted for an hour and a half, when it was closed by a vote of thanks to Miss Barton, the Lady Superintendent, and to the Board of Management for their hospitality.

S. G.

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