

Briefly—the highest culture in nursing teaches us to use our best faculties in our work and to found our actions on knowledge and judgment, not on mechanical routine or haphazard guessing, for there is no work so simple on which they do not leave their mark; it gives refinement to our manners and behaviour to the patients, gives us the power of expressing our sympathy and compassion without awkwardness or affectation, makes us tolerant of the faults of others as it gives us the clearness to see the good that often lies beneath an unpromising exterior, gives us the power of directing and controlling, with heart and head, the work of our hands.

### NURSING ECHOES.

*\*\* Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are specially invited for these columns.*

THE event of last week was undoubtedly the meeting of the General Council of the British Nurses' Association, which passed off most successfully—so far, at least, as the transaction of a large amount of work was concerned, but which to my mind was rather too business-like. I do not wish to be hypercritical, but, in a meeting so largely composed of women, the silence was really oppressive! Resolution after resolution was proposed, and seconded, then came a pause, and it was put to the meeting, and we solemnly held up our hands and it was "carried unanimously." I know many were longing to say something, and if only some one had been brave enough to break the ice, we should have had a good discussion on many of the important points which were raised. The fact, I expect, was that everyone felt how good it was of the Princess to take the chair, and if they did not agree with all that was proposed, did not like to say so, for fear of causing her the slightest discomfort.

\* \* \*

SOMEONE remarked afterwards that a taunt had been brought against the Association, that it was purely a Metropolitan affair, but pointed out that the list of the members present at the Council Meeting showed how large a number came from the provinces. By the kind courtesy of the Honorary Secretaries I was enabled to copy the lists upon which all, except a few who came late, signed their names before entering the room in which the meeting was held. On the small platform were Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, her Lady in Waiting, Sir Dyce Duckworth, Miss Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's, Miss Wood and Dr. Bedford Fenwick, the Honorary Secretaries, and there was a conspicuous empty chair reserved, I understood, for Miss Jones, the Matron at Guy's, who, however, arrived late, and I suppose would not then go forward to occupy it.

In the body of the meeting there were Dr. Priestley, Mr. Brudenell Carter, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mr. Davies-Colley, Dr. Coupland, Dr. Fowler, Dr. and Mrs. Acland, Dr. Willingham Gell, Mr. Randolph, Dr. Schofield, Sister Rosa, of Charing Cross Hospital; Miss East, Matron of the National Hospital for Epilepsy; Miss Close, of the Kensington, and Miss Mollett, of the Chelsea, Infirmary; Miss Cureton, of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge; Miss Rimington, of the General Hospital, Nottingham; Miss Balkwill, of the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Miss Mansel, of the Metropolitan and National Nursing Association; Miss Coke, of the Windsor Infirmary; Miss Frost, of the Throat Hospital, Golden Square; Miss Cooper, of the Victoria Hospital for Children; the Misses Robertson; Miss Oldham, late of the Cheltenham Hospital; Mrs. Perry, of the Whitechapel Infirmary; Miss Morse, of the Children's Hospital, Nottingham; Miss F. Hopkins, of the South Devon Hospital; Mrs. Norris, late Matron of St. Mary's Hospital; Mrs. G. D. Robinson, and other equally well known, past or present, Lady Superintendents of Metropolitan or Provincial Hospitals.

\* \* \*

MISS HELENA GOMME, Miss Maitland Erskine, of Charing Cross Hospital; Miss Francis Humfrey, Miss G. A. Mayor, Sister Agnes Mary, of University College Hospital; Miss Mary Taylor, of Charing Cross Hospital; Miss Mary Turnbull, of the General Hospital, Nottingham; Miss Greenstreet and Miss Wisden, of St. Bartholomew's; Miss Laura Dunster, of the Middlesex Hospital; Miss A. Kol, and Miss G. A. Cole, of the Cromwell House, Highgate; Miss Emily Campbell, of University College Hospital; Miss A. L. Kimber, of the Victoria Hospital for Children; Miss Osburn, Miss Field, Miss Hodgkin, Miss G. Braddon, Miss Mary Young, of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge; Miss Ellen Revikwell, of the Chelsea Infirmary; Miss Cox, of the Middlesex Hospital; Miss H. C. Madden, of the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street; Miss Ellis, of the Leicester Infirmary; Miss Winter, of the Children's Home Brighton; and other sisters and nurses, and medical gentlemen whose names I was unable to obtain.

\* \* \*

FROM a full report which Mr. Editor tells me will appear in another column, it will be seen what a large amount of work was done. I anticipate, however, that future meetings will be more talkative and more amusing, when members find out how extremely kind-hearted the President is, and how greatly interested she is in nursing matters. The proposal to have an engraving of Princess Christian's head in profile on the seal of the Association created the greatest interest and was warmly received. Her Royal Highness' assent to the idea is only one

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)