

tion; but they are *not* qualified to appreciate the process by which it is obtained.

Now is the time, if the question is to be solved, for every Nurse to bestir herself and come forward to help, with all her strength, those who are striving to help her. If the present opportunity is lost, every Nurse who has refrained from helping, will individually be to blame. If it is successful, she will individually be a sharer in the glory of the success. To secure a Royal Charter which will assure the future position of every trained Nurse, which will make Nursing into a distinct profession, must be the wish of every Nurse who is proud of her calling. Over 700 medical men, Matrons, and Nurses have in four months come forward and joined the British Nurses' Association, and the numbers increase in greater proportion every week. I cannot believe that any woman who has been three years engaged in Nursing work, and therefore is eligible for membership, will hang back now, and allow others to bear all the burden and heat, and gain all the glory, of the struggle for benefits which, when gained, she must share.

NURSING ECHOES.

* * * *Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are specially invited for these columns.*

THERE are to be grand doings at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, in Queen Square, next month. There is to be a flower show and musical conversation, on July 5th, at which several members of the Royal Family have announced their intention to be present. The hospital is well known to the public as the splendid new buildings in the dingy old square, and as the memorial to the late Duke of Albany, who always took the deepest interest in the welfare of the institution. In the medical world it is obtaining a world-wide reputation for the successful advances it has been the means of making in the treatment of nervous diseases, through the many celebrated members of its staff of physicians and surgeon. By philanthropists it is quoted as the best example in England, of the success of charitable appeals.

MR. BURFORD RAWLINGS, to whom the hospital really owes its present glory and secure financial standing, is admirably termed "the king of beggars," because, when other institutions were closing their wards, and almost their very doors, in despair of sufficient subscriptions, Mr. Rawlings was organising novel attacks on public charity which brought in thousands of pounds. In the Nursing world it is taking an almost unique place under the clever management of Miss East, who has not only

completely reorganised the whole of her own department, raised the general tone of her Staff, and much improved their individual positions, but has also afforded them several fresh and most valuable opportunities of learning: For example, courses of instruction in massage and in the use of galvanism are regularly given, and the whole science of baths is practically taught, in the model appliances the institution possesses of every kind and variety. In short the National Hospital is, to paraphrase the old saying, most unlike "mortals," because Miss East makes it "deserve success," while Mr. Rawlings seems to "command" it.

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I HEAR also there is to be a special afternoon performance given at the Savoy Theatre on July 4th, in connection with the Silver Fete, which will take place in the Royal Exhibition Grounds at South Kensington, for the benefit of the funds of that most excellent institution, the Victoria Hospital for Children. The play will be the original fairy comedy, "The Wicked World," written by Mr. W. S. Gilbert, and presented by kind permission for the first time for fifteen years; and Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. G. Alexander will take the principal parts. Tickets can, I am told, be obtained at the theatre, the usual libraries, and from the well-known indefatigable secretary, Captain Blount, R.N., at the hospital, Queen's-road, Chelsea. Most of my readers will know the institution best, however, from the high reputation it has for long held among Nurses, owing to the fact that its matrons have justly taken such distinguished place in Nursing circles, Miss Minks having held the post for some years after leaving the Children's Hospital at Nottingham, and Miss Cooper having succeeded her, and having, if that were possible, still further raised the general tone and efficiency of the staff.

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I HAVE had several letters *apropos* of my account last week of Miss Alice Fisher's lamented death; among others, a most graceful account of her life and work from a distinguished physician to the Middlesex Hospital, which, unfortunately, arrived too late, or it would have been far more worthy of its subject than my words were. A well-known member of the Nursing profession sends me the following account of her funeral, which will doubtless greatly interest many of the readers of this journal.

* * *

THE funeral of Miss Alice Fisher, late chief Nurse of the Philadelphia Almshouse Hospital, took place on June 5th. The coffin, which was of oak, was draped with the Union Jack and covered with roses, simlax, and ferns. On the lid was a brass plate bearing the inscription, "Alice Fisher, born in England, June 14th, 1839; died in Philadelphia, Pa., June 3rd, 1888." It remained in state till

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