

CORRESPONDENCE

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

* * We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by Correspondents. Brevity and conciseness will have first consideration. See Notices.

* * British Nurses' Association.—We are requested to state that Miss Wood (Hon. Sec.) will be at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., every Wednesday, from 10.30 a.m. to noon, and at 7, St. George's Mansions, Red Lion Square, W.C., on each Friday until noon, to see Nurses or others who may wish to make inquiries.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I shall be grateful if you will once more allow me to occupy a short space in the *Nursing Record*, by describing how the money entrusted to me on behalf of Nurse Bayliss has been spent. It amounted in all to £13 6s. After consultation with the Rev. Mr. Brindley, whose most kind letter to the daily papers first drew attention to the case, it was decided that from the donations he had obtained £5 should be added to £10 of my collection; by the generosity of Messrs. Cook and Burchett, of Oxford Street, we obtained a gold watch, priced at £20, and a gold chain, priced at £4, for this amount. A suitable inscription upon the watch cost 7s. 6d. more; and the balance of the £13 6s. has been expended in purchasing, at Nurse's request, a strong leather trunk, to supply the one she lost in the fire. Thanking you for your valuable assistance in this matter, I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK.

20, Upper Wimpole Street,
London, W., November 5th, 1888.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—As I understand that many of your readers have kindly interested themselves in the case of Nurse Bayliss, who so nearly lost her life in a brave effort to save her patient, in the late fatal fire in Wigmore Street, I have great pleasure in stating that so generously was my appeal on her behalf responded to, that I have been enabled, more than I expected, to replace everything that she lost in the fire. After defraying all her expenses at Eastbourne for five weeks, and fully restoring her wardrobe, I have been able to assist members of the British Nurses' Association in the purchase of a gold watch and chain, which was presented to her last week by Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and myself, and also to increase her Savings Bank Fund, to the extent of some £20.

Thanking all those who have so kindly assisted in this good work, helping thus to bear and to share the burden of another, and so to fulfil the law of Christ.—Believe me to remain your obedient servant,

FREDERICK BRINDLEY,

: Chaplain of the Middlesex Hospital.

Nurse Bayliss desires to return her most grateful thanks to all the members of the British Nurses' Association and others who have so kindly contributed to help her in her time of need, and especially to thank them for the beautiful gold watch and chain, to replace the one lost in the fire, which was presented to

her on Tuesday. The following is the inscription on the watch:—"Presented to Nurse Bayliss by Members of the British Nurses' Association and others, as a mark of sympathy in time of trial." An inscription that will ever encourage her in the future to persevere in the path of duty.

The Hon. Secretaries of the British Nurses' Association present their compliments to the Editor of the "Nursing Record," and would feel much obliged if he would give publicity, through the medium of his widely read Journal, to an important resolution passed at the last meeting of the Executive Committee to the following effect:—That members joining the Association, and paying their subscriptions in the last three months of each year, shall be exempt from the payment of subscription for the next following year.

The Hon. Secretaries are glad to be able to state that considerably more than 1,300 members have already been enrolled, and that at the end of nine months the Association is represented literally in all parts of the British Empire.

20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.

Nov. 5, 1888.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I have just read in your September number, of the proposal to afford help by means of a "Benevolent Fund," and admirable as the idea is in itself, may I ask most earnestly that the plan of "voting" for candidates may not be adopted without serious consideration of the system. I venture to say it is one which is gradually (I wish I could say rapidly) dying out, public opinion having been long since directed to its results by the "Charity Voting Reform Association," of which I enclose some papers.

That a new scheme should be started on a system which I do not hesitate to call cruel, would indeed be greatly to be regretted, and I trust that it may not be the case. The principle may be described as enormously expensive, time wasted in writing, and too often vain endeavours to procure votes, while the suffering applicant is kept in tortures of suspense during prolonged periods. Surely such a haphazard and gambling spirit is far removed from that of true charity and help, and I feel confident that all those who thus willingly come forward to help their fellow-creatures would not hesitate to leave the merits of their candidate in the hands of a well-chosen Committee, who would decide impartially on the merits of each case in turn.

We are anxiously endeavouring to influence the Governors and Committees of even old-established Charities to reform their ways in this respect, and I earnestly hope and trust that our efforts may not be checked by the creation of a new Charity on the old lines.

May I add that the address of this excellent society is 30, Charing Cross, where all information will be given.—Yours faithfully,

84, Palace Gardens Terrace.

LOUISA TWINING.

[We fully sympathise with our much-respected correspondent's views upon this matter, and though we consider the plan of our Benevolent Fund does not fall into the category of a voting charity, strictly speaking, we will consider how it could be altered to meet Miss Twining's wishes.—ED]

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