

NURSING ECHOES.

* * *Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

I HAVE received this week a whole budget of letters for advice, about the great event of next month—the Nurses' *Conversazione* of the British Nurses' Association—and will answer them now to the best of my ability. I may say, that where I found I could not answer any of the following questions, I applied for the information to the Hon. Secretaries; and Mr. Editor asks me to take this opportunity of expressing his and my gratitude to them, for the ready courtesy and promptitude with which they always afford us any information we seek for, upon questions affecting the Association. Well, then, I am asked whether the term "Members' friends" includes gentlemen as well as ladies; also, whether a member can obtain a "five shilling ticket for a friend who is not either a Nurse or a Medical man"; also, whether the same priced card "will be available for Nurses' friends who have no connection with Hospitals."

IN reply to these and many similar queries, I am told that "the object of the Association in allowing members to bring friends to the *Conversazione* is to give them the privilege of affording their friends a pleasant evening's entertainment, at the least possible cost; so members are at liberty to bring any friend they like to the *Conversazione*, and as many friends as they like, till all the friends' cards set apart are taken up." Next come various questions as to dress. "Ought a Nurse to go in uniform or evening dress?" Certainly in indoor uniform, for this is distinctly stated, I see, on the members' cards. "How do you think we shall do about our cloaks and bonnets, for all our party will walk there?" writes another. To this I would reply that there is sure to be a convenient cloak-room, where Nurses can deposit these articles of apparel, prepared for them. "How are District Nurses to be dressed, for our uniform is out-door?" is another knotty question.

THE Hon. Secretaries answer me upon this point, that Nurses certainly would not like to walk about the gallery in outdoor uniform at an evening entertainment, and add, "Although we think it would make the gathering much more picturesque if every Nurse appeared in uniform; still, it is intended for Nurses' pleasure, and they will be welcomed, and we trust enjoy themselves, in whatsoever indoor costume they individually prefer to come." The preparations, I hear, are

in a very forward state, and as a proof of how eagerly it is being looked forward to, I am told that more than five hundred cards have already been applied for and sent out; that members can still obtain cards for friends by forwarding five shillings for each; and that ladies and gentlemen interested in Nursing and Nurses, but not able to get a personal introduction from a member, may obtain cards by the payment of half-a-guinea each, by application to the Hon. Secretaries, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

AND now as to what will take place. I am told that there will be a splendid band playing almost continuously, except with two long interruptions, throughout the evening. Then there is the exhibition of the Pastel Paintings to be seen, some of which are most beautiful. The walls of the two long galleries and the small rooms at the end are lined with these, and are of themselves almost sufficient to occupy the whole available time. Besides these there will be a small exhibition of Nursing Appliances from large London and Provincial Hospitals, which will again engross considerable attention. Then the Refreshments, for which the Grosvenor Gallery is famous, will receive, I strongly suspect, their share of the visitors' interest! But, beyond and above all this, we shall have the opportunity of seeing "our Princess," as Nurses now call Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, of seeing most of the leaders of the Medical Profession in London, and of meeting again, doubtless, many Nurses and Doctors with whom we formerly worked—certainly not the least pleasant, nor the least profitable, of the many possible enjoyments of the evening. And as if all this were not enough pleasure, I am told of charming entertainments, the account of which, however, I must keep till next week, but which more than ever makes me advise every Nurse member, who can go, to get a card for herself as soon as possible, and let her friends know that she can get them cards, by applying at once, at half the price they would be obliged otherwise to pay.

ONE more proof of the success of the British Nurses' Association was given in the most unmistakable manner last Friday evening. Members had all received the post card announcing the course of meetings for the Session, and that the first one would be held on November 23rd, when Miss C. J. Wood, the well-known Hon. Secretary, would read a paper upon the Training of Nurses for Sick Children. But knowing how many Nurses could not leave their work in the evening, I frankly confess I expected to find only a small sprinkling of Matrons and Sisters present. I was extremely astonished, therefore, on arriving a few

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