

NURSING ECHOES.

** Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are specially invited for these columns.

I HEAR that H.R.H. Princess Christian, who is ever ready to help any good work of any kind, but who always takes the keenest interest in everything relating to nursing, organized and carried through a most successful concert last week, at the Public Hall at Slough, for the benefit of Lady Roberts' Homes of Rest in the Hills. It may be remembered that the wife of the Commander-in-Chief in India persuaded the Government to introduce lady nurses into the military hospitals out there. She saw at once that English ladies could not stand the intense fatigue of nursing work in the enervating climate for long together, and so with ready forethought immediately made a public appeal for subscriptions to found and endow homes of rest in the cooler climate of the hill country, to which nurses could be sent if their health began to fail in the plains.

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I HAVE received a kind letter from a relation of one of the nursing sisters sent to India, in which she says—"Miss Loch, with Sisters Harris, Welchman, Lickfold, and Kelly, arrived at Rawul Pindi on Wednesday, March 27th, and entered upon their duties on the following Monday. Far from any signs of 'irritation' being manifested by the Anglo-Indian community, their reception has been described by themselves as 'more than cordial.' On the journey from Bombay to Rawul Pindi they were entertained at Government Houses, all arrangements for their comfort being made for them with the greatest kindness and forethought." I am extremely glad to hear this, and sincerely hope that the "irritation" to which I referred last week will soon die away. It was evidently quite local in its extent, and only emanates from the lay press. As, however, one great advantage of a professional paper is to cull from all sources information about its members, and present it in short space for their easy acquirement, I quote the following from the *Indian Medical Journal* for February.

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"THE following appeared in the columns of our local lay contemporary:—'In the Indian Notes from Home which appeared in our issue of Wednesday, 1st February, are to be found the names of the two ladies—one from Guy's and one from Bartholomew's—who have been appointed lady superintendents of the nurses who are to work in the military hospitals at Umballa and Rawul Pindi. We have already expressed our surprise, and it will probably have astonished some of our readers to find that *two* have been appointed; for it was generally considered a

"settled thing" that the sisters of St. Deny's, Warminster, were to carry on the work at Rawul Pindi under the superintendence of one of their own number. We believe the facts of the case to be as follows:—After tedious delays, caused by the refusal of the Home Government to come to a definite decision, His Excellency the Viceroy acceded to the urgent request of the promoter of the scheme, Lady Roberts, and appointed one of the St. Deny's sisters to the post of superintendent of the Rawul Pindi centre, it being understood that the rest of the nurses would also be furnished by the community.'"

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"THIS fact was, of course, notified to the Secretary of State, but he refused to sanction the appointment, and has elected two other ladies. We suppose that such high officials do not condescend to give their reasons, but it looks as if Lord Cross had selected this as a fitting occasion for teaching the Government out here that they are merely puppets. We may rest assured that the ladies selected are well-trained, for the liberal terms advertised in *The Times* were such as to ensure a host of applications from well-qualified nurses. All past experience, however, proves that sisters make the best nurses, it stands to reason that this should be so, for sisters work simply for the love of God and of their fellow-creatures; they get no remuneration whatever; whereas the others accept such a post merely as a means of gaining a livelihood.'"

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Now all this is very interesting, as showing how ignorant the lay press in India must be as to what "trained nursing" means. The writer of the above has caught up the phrase which is becoming so popular, but evidently is in Egyptian darkness as to what it implies. He pours out the vials of his wrath upon the home officials because, knowing what nursing really is, they have selected the best possible nurses to tend our sick soldiers in India. I would not for a moment say a word against the members of St. Deny's or any other sisterhood, but I should greatly like to know, in the first place, whether the ladies in question had ever been "trained" at all, and if so, where, and for how long? Private information leads me to think that their training and their nursing knowledge is gained in working amongst the poor, and only the undiscerning lay mind could believe that knowledge so gained, however estimable and useful in its way, could be of the smallest use in a military hospital. And then, again, I firmly believe that most nurses "work for the love of God and of their fellow creatures," and that the love is not made less in the smallest degree because their employers rightly consider it should receive earthly remuneration.

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I HEAR that Miss McDonnell and Miss Eleanor Hughes have been appointed superintendents of

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