

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



WE have had a considerable number of letters, this last week, on the subject of the Royal British Nurses' Association and its Registration work, and I understand that some of them will appear in another column to-day. There is clearly a great searching of hearts going on in the Nursing world, and a very considerable amount of annoyance is expressed that Nurses have been

so misled concerning the Association, its work, and its future prospects. It is notorious that the greatest pressure has been put on Nurses in a large number of Institutions not to join the Association, and that the great body of Nurses have believed the falsehoods which have been so freely circulated against the Register and those women who were wise enough to become enrolled. But, as usually happens, this malicious mendacity is recoiling upon its authors, while we hear, from all sides, that some who have been deceived mean to take an early opportunity of joining the Association and obtaining the very solid advantages which it is now able to give to its members.

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WE have received a number of inquiries as to the Registration fee, and for the five or six hundredth time I must repeat that all inquiries on this point, or any other relating to the Association, should be directed to the Secretary, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, Oxford Street, W. Because we have always steadfastly and strongly supported the Association, fought its battles and attacked its enemies, many Nurses seem unable to understand that we have not the slightest connection with the Association. Considering the remarkable lack of gratitude which we, throughout its whole existence, have experienced from the managers of the Association, we are free to admit that it is remarkable that this Journal should continue to support them. But the explanation of the mystery is very simple. We approve most heartily of the principles of the Association, and, in the main, of the manner in which those principles have been carried out. Especially do we uphold the Registration scheme, because it is the corner-stone of the Nursing education of the future.

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WHEN the battle of the Association is over, we shall not hesitate to criticise freely some of its methods, but while the fighting is in progress we are prepared to sink all minor differences, and, as we have unflinchingly done hitherto, accord it our whole and hearty support. We have not insisted upon the fact hitherto, but it is, at this present moment, not inopportune to remark that, while we have never received the slightest expression of gratitude from the Association, we are the only organ in the Press which has never failed, at every juncture, to support and aid it.

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THERE was a good gathering of members at the General Council Meeting of the Association last Friday. Her Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN, attended by Lady EDWARD CAVENDISH, was present, and Sir WILLIAM SAVORY took the chair. The business was chiefly of a formal character, consisting of various reports of the Executive Committee, and the selection of names for the Council for 1893-94, but there were two matters of general interest. It is proposed that the annual meeting shall this year be held at Oxford, and the Treasurer, Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK, stated that in consequence of the expenses of registration being greater than the receipts, he had given formal notice of a resolution that the fee should be raised to one guinea—instead of half-a-guinea, as at present—but that in deference to the request of the Executive Committee, he would postpone the resolution to a future meeting.

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I OBSERVE in the letter which Princess CHRISTIAN addressed to this journal last year, that it is stated that the work of registration had then cost the Association more than £800—a fact which in view of its small income, must necessarily have burdened the Committee. And, if the expenses cannot be reduced, of course the only other alternative is to increase the receipts. The question is raised by several correspondents as to when the increased fee will come into force, as they are desirous of becoming registered before then, but see no reason for haste otherwise. They will, perhaps, be comforted to observe that no decision on the matter has yet been arrived at. But it will be generally felt that the treasurer of the Association would not have brought such a proposition forward, unless it were financially necessary, so that the large number of Nurses, who are waiting to see what other Nurses do, may find delay unprofitable to themselves. Probably, a very considerable number will see the matter in the light in which it has

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