

Nursing Echoes.

* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.



THE greatest disappointment is being expressed everywhere by the opponents of the R.B.N.A. They tried to start a discussion concerning the powers conferred by the Charter, into which the Association courteously but firmly declined to be led, until the exact words of the Charter had been officially communicated to them.

Whereupon the opponents grew happier, and one reverend gentleman exemplified the clerical idea of courtesy by hinting not obscurely that the Association found it "inconvenient" to discuss the matter. The *St. James's Gazette*, which has before caused surprise by its innocent remarks on Nursing matters, then indulged in a couple of outbursts, of which the following contains the most obvious mistakes :—

"The Royal British Nurses' Association has got its Charter, thanks to Princess Christian. But *what* Charter? And do its terms show a defeat for the Hospitals after all? The text of the Charter when issued will show. But it is stated that the boasted "Register" of Nurses, to which objection is taken, will not be sanctioned by it. The Association can have its own list of members, of course; but with that it will only be just another competing establishment for the supply of Nurses. The creation by Royal Charter of a definite Register of all the Nurses in the country is quite a different matter. That is what the Association wanted recognized. If it does not get that the Charter will make very little difference."

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THE rest of our contemporaries are almost unanimous in their approval of the work of the Association, and speak with unstinted praise of the value of Registration to the public. The *Western Daily Press*, for example, of May 26th, contained a most thoughtful leader on the subject, which shows how completely its salient features are understood by the chief organs of the Press of this country.

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BUT, on the other hand, to show the confusion which still exists, and which has been so sedulously encouraged, the following paragraph on the same subject from the *Worcester Echo* is very significant. Fancy the grant of the Charter being a

victory over doctors who have worked so hard and loyally not only to obtain for Nurses the privileges they deserve, but also to save themselves and the public from the dangers to which they are at present exposed.

"The grant of a Charter to the Royal British Nurses' Association is construed as a victory over the doctors and the Hospitals. But it may be doubted whether it is in fact much more than a compliment to the Princess Christian who with commendable zeal has pushed the Association into prominence. What the Association wanted was a Charter which would entitle it to register all trained Nurses; what it has really obtained, so far as is understood, is the right to register its own Nurses. It was feared by the doctors that it would become a kind of Trades Union, exercising jurisdiction over the trained staffs of the Hospitals, and prescribing its own standards of fitness for Hospital work. It will probably be found that the much-discussed Charter will be without any practical effect, either for good or for evil, upon the fortunes of the Nursing profession."

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THE greatest amusement has been caused amongst our contemporaries, and an excellent proof has been given as to the class of persons who read the *Hospital*, by the replies which they have made to Nursing questions put to them by our contemporary—replies which it incautiously published. For example, according to the *Bristol Evening News*, of May 27, the *Hospital* received the following answer to one of its inquiries: "In bronchitis," says Nurse—, "the patient should be washed daily on the allotment system, under a hot blanket." No one can be surprised at this, remembering how the *Hospital* itself has for years abused the R.B.N.A. and Registration, how it gravely advised Nurses to pour methylated spirits into their shoes for sore feet! and eulogised a Nurse's "heroic conduct" in "blowing violently down a tracheotomy tube to clear it"!!

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MISS ANNESLEY KENEALY has been appointed one of the three English women chosen to act as jurors of awards at the Chicago Exhibition by the Ladies' Committee of the British Royal Commission. Miss KENEALY's department will be the judging of the Nursing, Hygienic and Hospital Exhibits. Miss KENEALY, as probably my readers are aware, is a distinguished member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a Registered Nurse, and I congratulate her on the honourable post she has been selected to fill.

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THE two Umtali Hospital Sisters, belonging to the Bishop of Mashonaland's Mission, Miss R. A. BLENNERHASSETT and Miss LUCY SLEEMAN, have recently had a narrow escape (writes a correspondent

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