

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.



MR. BURDETT'S paper, after struggling for more than five years to thwart the Royal British Nurses' Association, for reasons which we have already explained at length, is still endeavouring to delude any Nurses who read it as to the great significance of the Royal Charter. It is much to be regretted that our contemporary should continue, however, to bring discredit upon

the Press by publishing statements which it must know to be entirely untrue. Last week it had the audacity to state that "the opposition which was offered to the application of the Royal British Nurses' Association was directed only to the question of registration." This from the source which described the members of the Association as "the scum of the Nursing profession," and "women who only joined it to obtain pseudo-respectability," is rather a severe strain upon the credulousness of Nurses who remember all the mis-statements—exposed but never withdrawn—which have been circulated concerning the Association in the same periodical.

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BUT let us nail the latest lie to the counter, and place together the audacious falsehood which appeared in the *Hospital* on June 24th, and an extract from an annotation on the same subject which the *Lancet* published on the same day.

The *Hospital* actually stated (p. 194):—

"The Charter which has been granted does not empower them (the R.B.N.A.) to maintain a general register of trained nurses."

The *Lancet* said:—

"We gave last week a synopsis of the contents of the charter obtained by the Royal British Nurses' Association, from which it will be seen that there is no ground whatever for the suggestion, somewhat industriously circulated of late, that the Privy Council had refused to sanction the publication of the Association's Register. In order to prevent any misunderstanding upon this point it may be useful to give publicity to the terms in which the power to continue this publication is granted by the Crown. They read as follows: 'The purposes of the corporation are the following..... 3. The maintenance and publication of a list of persons who may have applied to the corporation to have their names entered therein as nurses and whom the corporation may think fit to enter therein from time to time, coupled

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with such information about each person so entered as to the corporation may from time to time seem desirable.' So far, therefore, the corporation has entirely succeeded. It has been driven by an opposition, which even those who promoted it must now see reason to regret, to seek incorporation by the somewhat costly medium of a charter, but it has obtained what was necessary, and can now afford to forget the unworthy jealousies against which it has so signally prevailed. It is able now to enter upon a greater and a worthier task than that of asserting itself against detractors, and we trust that in the larger undertaking it will succeed as signally as it has succeeded in the smaller."

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THE Association does not appear to have taken the slightest notice of the falsehoods circulated against it, and I only refer to the above to prevent Nurses being once more deceived to their own great disadvantage. They should take warning by those who were frightened or deluded by the statements made in the *Hospital* in previous years, and so did not join their great professional Association nor become registered. The result is that there is now the most bitter feeling growing amongst Nurses who find they have been totally deceived regarding the Association, and as to the position which it holds in the opinion of the leaders of the medical and nursing profession, and that they have therefore lost for ever the inestimable chance, which they would have otherwise seized, of becoming members of the great Corporation of Trained Nurses.

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MR. BURDETT'S paper is still trying to make them believe that the leaders of the Nursing profession do not belong to the Association, now that it is impossible to disguise the fact any longer that the leaders and the rank and file of the medical profession have been and are working cordially and loyally with and for the Association. I have excellent reasons for believing that in a very short time it will be impossible even for the *Hospital* to assert this. For I am told that a number of the Matrons of the leading Hospitals in London and the Provinces who have always been in sympathy with the Association are now being permitted by their Committees openly to join and to take an active part in the Royal Chartered Corporation.

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NURSES should now understand the truth. The Association has been enormously opposed, by dukes, deans, distillers, and even by lesser mortals, because its programme of reform interfered with the pride of some Institutions, and very much with the pockets of others. The chief opponents are, just at present, furious because they have been beaten through their own mistakes, and because

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