

## Royal British Nurses' Association.

The Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association held a meeting at the Offices, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, at 5 p.m., on the 6th inst.

The October Meeting of the General Council will be held on the 27th inst., at 5 p.m., at 20, Hanover Square.

A short review of the new Bye-laws, lately passed by the Privy Council, may interest non-members of the Association.

The President of the Association is Her Royal Highness Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess of Great Britain and Ireland.

The other honorary officers of the Association are a Patron, Vice-Presidents, three Vice-Chairmen of the General Council and Executive Committee, of whom one is always to be a Physician, one a Surgeon, and one a Nurse; a Treasurer, and two Honorary Secretaries—one a medical man and one a Nurse.

No Nurse is eligible for election as a member unless her name has been previously entered on the list of Nurses maintained by the Corporation. Nurses desirous of becoming members should apply first for a form of registration.

The Annual Meeting is held in July or August of each year in London, or in any town in the United Kingdom which the General Council shall decide upon, as most convenient for the purpose.

The General Council consists of the President, the honorary officers, 100 medical men, 100 past or present Matrons, and 100 Sisters or Nurses. It meets in the months of January, April, July, and October of each year.

The Executive Committee is chosen from the members of the General Council, and consists of the following *ex-officio* members, subject to their consent to act: the President, the Vice-Chairmen, the Treasurer, and the Hon. Secretaries; the President for the time being of the British Medical Association, and of the Medical Practitioners' Association; the Matrons of such General Hospitals of the Metropolis to which recognised Medical Schools are attached, and of such Hospitals in the rest of the United Kingdom which contain more than 200 beds, as maintain the three years' standard of Nurses' training; the heads of the Navy and Army Nursing Departments, and the senior Lady Superintendent of the Indian Army Nursing Service; and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; and of the following twenty-four *elected* members, viz., four Physicians; four Surgeons; six General Medical Practitioners, and six Lecturers to Nurses at the previously specified General Hospitals of the Metropolis and United Kingdom; four Matrons of Special or General Hospitals to which Medical Schools are not attached; four Matrons of the Poor Law Infirmaries of the United Kingdom which maintain the three years' standard of Nurses' training; one Sister in charge of a Ward at a Metropolitan Hospital; and one Lady Superintendent of District Nurses.

The Association is to be congratulated upon having, by these new Bye-laws, extended the representation of Nursing interests. It is a just arrangement that all Matrons who occupy the honourable position of Superintendent of Nursing over a Hospital containing 200 beds and which maintains a standard of three years' training, should be *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee.

By the new Bye-laws, medical women are eligible for membership. It is to be surmised that women possessing as they do, so strong a sense of duty, will appreciate the responsibility of being accorded the opportunity of a voice in the conduct of the Nursing profession, which so largely depends upon medical science, and must always be subject to its controlling influence.

## Nursing Echoes.

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



HER Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN has written an eloquent article on the Royal British Nurses' Association for this month's *Atlanta*, and which we will review next week, as we have been favoured with an article on the same subject from Her Royal Highness, which appears in another column of this journal to-day.

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THE closing words, of the latter, strike the keynote of the spirit which should animate every woman in whatever branch of work she may be occupied. Speaking of the organization of the profession of Nursing, she writes—"With all my heart I devote to it such loving thought, labour, and strength as I have to give." Duty—Courage—Love—are the three great conquering forces of the world; the sense of duty inspires the courage, which evolves the comprehensive strength of feeling which embraces in its intuition and sympathy the individuality of humanity and gives keen appreciation to the sensitive antennæ of true fellowship.

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IN our own particular sphere of duty—the efficient nursing of the sick—how much of the constitution of a good Nurse is comprised in these subtle mental intuitions, a sense more refined than speech? The finest training to which a Probationer could be subjected would be the necessity of performing her duties perfectly, with the least possible use of words. Observation, whereby comes the truest knowledge of natural law, should be her great teacher.

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THE advice given by the late Sir JAMES SIMPSON to his students on the spirit of their work, is equally applicable to our Nursing students:—

"The profession you have chosen is," he said, "in many respects the most important which you can follow. Nature has happily ordained it as one of the great laws on which she has founded our moral happiness, that the performance of love and kindness to others should be a genuine and never-failing source of pleasure to our own hearts. The objects and powers of your art are alike great and elevated. Your aim is, as far as possible, to alleviate human suffering, to gladden, as well as to prolong, the course of human life. If

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