

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



As we go to press, the final arrangements are being completed for the Royal British Nurses' Conversation, of which we shall give a detailed account next week.

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Her Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN, as the President of the Royal Corporation of Nurses, writes a preface in the Christmas Number

of the *Queen*, to an article entitled "The History of Nursing," and we rejoice to observe that she recommends women, belonging to other professions, to associate themselves for the same objects which animate the members of the R.B.N.A.—self-improvement and usefulness to the community.

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"The feature which especially occurs to one, in reviewing the History of Nursing, is the rapid progress which has been made in the profession within the last twenty years, as compared with the stagnation of previous centuries. It is perhaps not too much to say that Nursing, as a distinct profession, has only come into existence during the present generation. It is a vocation which affords scope to all the best and highest endowments of womanhood, and, by training and culture, tends to bring them to bear on suffering mankind in such a manner as to conduce in the highest degree to their comfort and relief.

I cannot, therefore, but rejoice that the education and professional position of Nurses are attracting a measure of attention and interest which grows from day to day. Disease and the suffering which it brings with it being our common lot, the education and organisation of those who devote their lives and energies to ministering to the sick cannot fail to be a subject of vital importance. By the number and character of those engaged in the profession, in virtue of the public importance and private usefulness of the duties which they perform, and by their voluntary organisation, Nurses of the present day have undoubtedly attained to a prominent position among working women; and they may most appropriately claim the sympathy and thoughtful consideration of all who wish to realise their responsibilities.

It is to be hoped that women occupied in other spheres of work may be encouraged, by this example of success, similarly to unite and organise, not only for purposes of mutual help, comfort, and support, but, as in the case of Nurses, to improve and raise their vocation, and with a view to increasing their usefulness."

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THE Marchioness of LONDONDERRY justly takes great interest in the welfare of the inhabitants of the pit villages in her husband's coalfields, and a cottage and £25 per annum has been contributed towards the maintenance of Nurses in several of these villages. The work of the district Nurses in Stockton, Seaham Harbour and Seaham Colliery has been the means of alleviating much suffering, and it has just been arranged to have a Nurse appointed in the village of Silksworth.

THE Lincolnshire Rural Nursing Association is making rapid strides under the presidency of the Countess of WINCHILSEA. Holland, as well as the other County Councils in the district, has made a grant of £200 for the training of several Nurses to work in the county. It is sincerely to be hoped, as public money is to be expended, that the term of training adopted will be a thorough one, as one cannot but deplore the fact that in some instances three and six months' work in an Infirmary or Hospital is all the practical experience demanded from candidates for the position of a village Nurse.

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WE are glad to observe that the Belfast Nurses' Home and Training School, under the able direction of Miss LYDIA NEWMAN, is in a flourishing condition. In November, 1892, the Institution attained its twenty-first year. The review of the history of the Home during those twenty-one years is one of steady progress. It began in a small house in Frederick Street, in 1871, with a staff of seventeen Nurses and Probationers, all told. Since then the present commodious building has been erected, and the number of the nursing staff has risen to eighty-nine Nurses and Probationers. An important addition to the superannuation fund has been received from the trustees of the late Miss McCAY, which amounts to £813 14s. 4d. No truer kindness can be shown to a Nursing Institution than to contribute to such a fund, since it helps to support those who have laboured long in its service, when their working days are done, and we all know how difficult it is for a Nurse, receiving often less than £30 per annum, to save much for herself. A portrait of Miss McCAY has been presented to the Home, and placed in the Board-room.

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AT the ordinary fortnightly Meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, the North-Western Hospital Committee reported that the members of the present Nursing Staff were very much over-taxed by reason of the smallness of their number, that many are disabled through illness, that some who had been appointed have postponed the date of joining, that many resignations have taken place, and that notwithstanding advertisements for Nurses had been extensively issued, no suitable applications had been received, and that under these circumstances the Committee had authorised the medical superintendent to engage a few Nurses from one of the recognised Nursing Institutes at a remuneration of one guinea a week each.

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WE regret much to hear of the difficulty, as the Board are greatly to be commended for the high standard which they require from applicants for the position of Charge Nurses in the Institutions under their direction. We observe that candidates must be between the age of 25 and 35, and must

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)