

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



DURING her late visit to Oxford, Her Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN paid a visit to the Acland Nurses' Home—of the Committee of which she is a member. Her Royal Highness was received by Mrs. E. T. TURNER, Vice-President; Miss BULL, Hon. Secretary; and the other ladies of the Committee then in Oxford, and by them conducted over the Home. The Princess spoke to some of the patients, and afterwards saw the district Nurses and those private Nurses who were in the Home. Her Royal Highness was pleased to express her approbation of what she saw, and her continued interest in the Home, and also her willingness to come at any time to help the Committee.

THE Concert which will take place in aid of the Nurses' Home of Rest at Brighton—given entirely at the expense of Mr. and Mrs. FREDERICK BEER, at 7, Chesterfield Gardens, on the 21st inst.—will be a repetition by Herr BONAWITZ, of his "Invisible Musical Performance," which created so much interest last Saturday. Herr BONAWITZ, writing on the subject, says:—

"In my childhood I used to hear, from my dark bedroom, performances of sonatas, trios, quartets (also songs by Schubert and Mendelssohn) in an adjoining room, where my parents, assisted by my elder brothers and sisters, used to practise, on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, the compositions of our great masters. How deep the impression was which those invisible performances made upon me can, perhaps, only be understood by those who have heard classical music performed under similar conditions. Indeed, so lasting was the effect that, whenever I heard the same compositions in later years publicly played, even by superior artists, I always felt as if it were not the same music. But there is nothing surprising in that. Fancy, for instance, one of Haydn's or Mozart's lovely adagios, or Beethoven's 'Funeral March Sonata' performed in a brilliantly-illuminated hall by artists who draw a great part of the hearer's attention to their bowing, fingering or facial expression. Can the effect be the same as if heard from a darkened room, and without seeing the machinery which produces it? In an opera we always see action on the stage which corresponds with the music we hear. Not so in the concert room, where the same 'tail-coat' is seen in Chopin's 'Funeral March' or in Sarasate's 'Spanish Dances.' That explains why one and the same piece of music never produces the same effect at the concert as in the opera, and it proves at the same time that 'invisibility' is often preferable to a 'tail-coat.' It cannot be denied that our invisible concert performances have opened the door to much churlatany in musical art. Many a lady and gentleman would, perhaps, never have dreamed of performing in public had the possibility of personal exhibition

been excluded from the very first. I also doubt if certain pieces of music, which have no other object than to show off the player, would ever have been written. Indeed, I think that musical art, on the whole, would have followed up different lines, and the general taste become healthier, if the possibility of this personal exhibition had never existed. 'Dramatic art' alone requires 'personal exhibition.' Richard Wagner was well aware of that when he constructed his theatre at Bayreuth, where the orchestra is invisible. Music and painting can be enjoyed without seeing the artist and his instrument or brush. For those, however, who imagine that they cannot enjoy music without seeing the machinery which works it I should suggest the following arrangement: (1) That an extra charge of 3d. be made to those who wish to have a peep at the performers; and (2) that an extra charge of 6d. be made to those who wish to remain with the performers during the show."

Tickets at £1 1s., 10s. 6d. and 5s. can be obtained from Mrs. BEER, 7, Chesterfield Gardens, and from the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.

"A Nursing Sister" writes:—

"MADAM,—Having read with some interest a letter from a Mr. George Evatt, advocating an army reserve of Nursing Sisters, and learning from the Editor's remarks that the suggestion was approved by her and deemed worthy of consideration, I beg you will find space for a few words on the same subject from a Nursing Sister's point of view. Mr. Evatt talks of having numbers 'of able-bodied strong young Nurses ready for any climate,' as a reserve to be sent abroad in time of war. Surely he can know but little of the service to suggest that a reserve be sent in preference to our own Nursing staff; many, if not all, of whom have been attracted to the army by thoughts of foreign service and of all the good and noble work to be done abroad, and have for years been quietly doing the work required of them in Home Station Hospitals. Mr. Evatt, from the way in which he speaks of Sisters supervising, again shows his want of knowledge. The Sisters in the army do (in most small Hospitals, at least), the work which would fall to Nurses or Probationers in a civil Hospital; the number of orderlies being kept as small as possible, and parades, drill, and inspections, &c., causing them often to be absent from their wards. Now, any one would see that it would be a great hardship on the Sisters already in the service, who naturally look to being sent abroad (should anything arise), to find themselves left at home stations, whilst a reserve force came in for the good work of Nursing abroad. At the same time it would be hard to imagine a reserve corps who were Sisters in our civil Hospitals, caring (if they knew the work) to fill the gaps at home when the Nursing Sisters of the army were required for active service. In conclusion, I would suggest to Mr. Evatt that his fears 'of sham Nurses without knowledge or training rushing into the army in the hurry and confusion of a campaign' are quite groundless, if those who do not understand these matters do not take the choosing on themselves, but leave it in the hands of some competent Matron."

THE letter alluded to appeared in our issue of the 31st ult., and, although signed "George Evatt," was written by an expert—Brigade Surgeon, Lieut.-Col. EVATT; and in suggesting the formation of a "Reserve of Nursing Sisters," we feel sure that any system which he initiated would be on the most practical lines. His wide and varied experience of foreign campaigns gives his views and opinions special value, and there can be no question that it is in the time of peace that preparation must be made for war.

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