

The second is the names of those who formed the Sub-Committee to superintend the furnishing of the new offices, a commission executed with such skill, knowledge of the requirements of those who are, respectively, to make use of the various rooms, that all Members of the Association will be glad to know to whose taste they are indebted for the results which excited unanimous praise last Wednesday:—H.R.H. the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Turner (Sister Lawrence), the Honorary Secretaries, the Treasurer.

Many kind and handsome contributions towards the expenses of the needful furniture for the Nurses' Club Room have been gratefully received from members of the Executive Committee and General Council. It is hoped that a few more donations may yet be sent in, as suitable books, pictures, tea services and minor luxuries are still wanting to complete the attractions of the Club Room, which must form a centre of cosiness and convenience for all London members once its charms are recognised.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK has generously presented cushions, vases, and many other knick-knacks which add so much to the completeness of a room destined specially for rest and recreation. Miss RIDLEY has sent a silver framed monthly almanack, and the Misses SPREAT four most useful basket tea tables; but many more such contributions will be most acceptable.

I have been requested to announce that several illustrations of the various rooms at 17, Old Cavendish Street, will appear in the *Queen* of June 9th, made during Wednesday's interesting ceremony by the *Queen* artist. It is thought that many members unable personally to visit the new premises may be glad to avail themselves of the opportunity thus offered them of gaining an accurate idea of what can be but poorly described by the pen, but perfectly portrayed by the pencil.

ALICE RAVENHILL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



IN the grand concert-hall of the Crystal Palace, on Monday afternoon, Princess CHRISTIAN distributed the medallions and certificates won by members of the Norwood centre of the St. John Ambulance Association.

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THE following article from the pen of Princess CHRISTIAN the President of the Royal British Nurses' Association appeared in the *Gentlewoman* of the 26th instant, and we venture to reprint it in its entirety, as we feel many of our readers will appreciate reading it:—

NURSES AND THEIR VOCATION.

BY H. R. H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN.

The universal liability to suffering, sickness, injury, and decay of Nature to which mankind is heir has at all times called forth in the heart of woman, of whatever class and rank, a feeling of deepest sympathy, and an earnest desire to help, comfort, and relieve those that are stricken down by such ills. These powerful motives have been brought by successive ages of Christian civilisation, and the progress made in the science and art of healing, to a degree of intensity never before equalled in the history of the world.

Yet it is only within recent times that the universal law which evolves specialism from progress has in any degree borne fruit in the field of woman's work in the sick room. The lessons taught in the Crimean War, and the admirable example of Miss Nightingale and her fellow-workers, gave the new movement its first great impulse. The seed then sown in days of great national anxiety has since been yielding rich and ever increasing harvests of results, the full value of which cannot even in the present day be fully understood or appreciated. In all civilised countries, and more especially in our own, it has come to be realised that, with all their gifts of heart and mind, untrained women are not fit to undertake the important, arduous, and responsible duties of attending on the sick. The eye, the hand, and, above all, the mind which directs and guides them must be educated, trained, and brought into subjection and discipline. Yet it must not, on the other hand, be supposed that training and education alone make a good nurse. "The heart must be in the right place," and never allow its sensibilities to be blunted by familiarity with scenes of suffering, or its impulses to be checked by the scientific interest called forth by training and acquired knowledge.

One result of the attention which has been awakened as to the requirements of the sickroom, has been that schools organised solely for the purpose of the education and training of Nurses have sprung into existence in connection with most of the large Hospitals in London, and with others which are scattered throughout the kingdom. They have been organised in different ways, and the courses of education peculiar to each have varied in many respects. Nevertheless, those numerous independent efforts have been the means of throwing light on many important points, and, finally, a few guiding principles have been well established, although universal recognition has not been accorded to them. One of those principles, perhaps the most important, has been maintained by the Royal British Nurses' Association from the time of its foundation, and not only regulates the procedure of an always increasing number of Nurse Training Schools, but has also been authoritatively sanctioned by the Committee of the House of Lords on Hospital management. I am here alluding to the necessity of a three years' course of training for all Probationers in the wards of a Hospital or Infirmary. A further step in the direction of the proper organisation of the vocation of Nursing has been the establishment by the Royal British Nurses' Association of a register, in all essential respects similar to that which the State has long recognised as necessary to the honour and efficiency of the medical and other professions, no less than to the protection of the public. There can be no doubt that, in these days, the great value of a register of trained Nurses will before very long be appreciated as it should be, by both medical men and the public, and prized by all good Nurses as a means of establishing their professional position and credit.

It cannot, however, be too often repeated that training and education alone do not qualify Nurses for their profession. Though women are, without doubt, endowed with great natural gifts for nursing, those gifts, untrained, do not of themselves make a good Nurse. We are so often told that it is so easy to be a Nurse, and it is by no means rare to hear women, who from force of circumstances, or often for lack of "something to do," are searching for an occupation, say:

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