

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



WE notice in the Royal British Nurses' Association column that the Association has concluded its arrangements for moving into its new offices, at 19, Harley Street, on the 24th of March. Her Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN, the President, is, we hear, arranging the details for the opening ceremony, at which she has graciously signified her intention of being present.

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ACCORDING to the wishes of the President one of the drawing-rooms is to be devoted to the comfort of members, and furnished as a club-room and library. This is a delightful arrangement for Metropolitan members, and it is our opinion that those members should each help to furnish this beautiful room for their own use. We shall be pleased to act as a medium, and shall be glad to hear from London members of the R.B.N.A. on the subject. We hope each one will do *something*—many hands make light work.

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IT will be remembered that when the Nurses' Home of Rest was furnished in 1891, the NURSING RECORD was then good enough to make a similar appeal, and as Hon. Secretary we had to acknowledge upwards of 50 charming and useful gifts—many from Nurses who, being well endowed with this world's goods, had no need to avail themselves of the "Home," and yet, evidently, felt great pleasure in contributing to its comfort and adornment for the benefit of colleagues less fortunate than themselves. We sincerely hope we may have the same generous response to this appeal.

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M.R.B.N.A. writes:—

"The idea of what a trained Nurse means, is slowly permeating through all ranks of society. A short time ago I was trying to number all who lived in one of our Midland cities. With this object I rang at the gate of the Gaol, and asked the warder if they had a trained Nurse in the Infirmary. "No," said he, immediately adding, "and we don't want one," evidently fearing I had come to apply for the place. I next enquired what they did if any of the prisoners were ill. "In that case," he said, "we send into the town for Nurses we know; at least, not *Nurses*, but *persons who go out Nursing*."

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THE Annual Meeting of the Nurses' Corporation, 8, New Cavendish Street, was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Friday, the 2nd inst., when a most

satisfactory report was presented, which we have pleasure in reprinting in full:—

"The Committee are gratified to report that during the past year the Nurses' Co-operation has continued its successful career. When the Co-operation was started in January, 1891, all agreements were made for three years only, it being the opinion of all concerned that that period would definitely show whether the movement was to be permanent or not. The books have conclusively proved that this is an excellent business from every point of view, and therefore the Committee have had no hesitation in renewing the lease of their present premises, and in entering into a further agreement with the Lady Superintendent, and the Co-operation has now settled down as a permanent institution.

The Committee particularly wish to point out as a subject for congratulation that they have not only succeeded in securing to their own Nurses full and adequate remuneration, but that since the Co-operation started, numerous Nursing Institutions have found it necessary to raise their rate of wages, and that Nurses' earnings throughout the United Kingdom have been, and are steadily rising. In seven institutions in London, Nurses are now paid a percentage on their earnings as well as a yearly wage. The total number of Nurses admitted on the staff since the start of the Co-operation has been 360; on December 30th, 1893, the number on the staff was 258, an increase of 54 since the last report. The greatest care is taken in selecting Nurses for the staff, and all complaints are carefully considered by the Committee. During 1893 five Nurses were asked to resign. The number of cases attended during the past year was 2,705, as against 1,732, and 1,127 in former years. Of these 2,122 were medical cases, and 583 surgical cases.

Forty-five members of the staff belong to the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses. This percentage is small, and considering that the Nurses receive their own earnings, all should try to provide for old age or illness. During the past year 22 per cent. of the Nurses who entered for sick pay received benefit from the Fund. As examples of the swiftness with which sickness overtook some of them, we may instance the case of one Nurse who joined on September 1st, and on the 15th was laid up with scarlatina; and of another who paid her first sick pay premium on November 30th, and was certified by the doctor on December 13th as being totally incapacitated from work owing to influenza.

A room for sick Nurses (non-infectious cases only) is provided at 8, New Cavendish Street, and thanks are due to the Hon. Physician and Hon. Surgeon for the kind attention they have given to those on the staff who have been ill.

The Committee record with deep regret the untimely death of Dr. W. B. Hadden, formerly Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Physician to the Co-operation, and one of its earliest and best friends, and death has also deprived us of the services of Lord Crewe. Mr. Napper, of Guildford, has, to the regret of all, been obliged to resign his place on the Committee.

The brooch medal provided for Nurses according to their own desire, has not been well taken up. It is to be hoped that the staff will all provide themselves with this useful and pretty badge.

The Incorporation of the Society by the Board of Trade, which was commenced in 1891, but unavoidably delayed, is now being carried through by the Hon. Solicitors, to whom thanks are due.

The Committee testify with pleasure to the excellent manner in which the Nurses have worked together, and to the able way in which the Lady Superintendent has carried on the practical work of the Society. Miss Leigh has resigned the post of Home-Sister to join the nursing staff, but an excellent substitute has been found in Sister Frances Hall.

Thanks are again due to the proprietor of the Langham Hotel for kindly supplying the Nurses with papers.

The rules for Nurses, which have been revised during the past year, will be found on page —.

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