

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



HER Royal Highness the President of the Royal British Nurses' Association will graciously invest the members who have applied for Badges, at the Annual Conversazione, which is to be held in the Grafton Galleries on the evening of December the 7th.

AN esteemed member of the Nursing profession writes concerning the announcement made in the paper signed by the President, and read at the International Congress at Buda-Pesth:—

"MADAM,—I cannot say with what pleasure I read the paper contributed by Princess Christian to the Congress at Buda-Pesth. These are indeed significant sentences:—'Let us hope that the day is not far distant when practically complete uniformity will have been established, and when the honourable title of "Trained Nurse" will be borne only by those who have arrived at a definite degree of efficiency and of technical knowledge, as tested and ascertained by means of a recognised examination.' And again: 'It is the hope of the Corporation that the time is not far distant when the State will see the importance of recognising a definite Diploma of Nursing, and of giving its official sanction to the maintenance of the Register of Trained Nurses.' I am not a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, because—although I sincerely sympathise with the work it has undertaken in helping Nurses—my aims have been even more ambitious on their behalf than those expressed by the Association. What I wish for is legal registration by Act of Parliament, thereby making registration of Trained Nurses as compulsory *as possible*. Now that the Association has publicly expressed a hope that this end may be obtained, I intend to become a member, and encourage my Nurses to do likewise, as we trained Nurses must make a very strong appeal to Parliament in these days if we are to obtain justice. Special legislation concerning the affairs of voteless women will, I fear, be treated with marked *haut en bas*, amidst the clamour of 'articulate males' of every Party. You are questioning in your columns, 'Should Nurses be Politicians? Without doubt they should—one and all—if they ever hope to obtain recognition by the State.' If, as a body, Nurses have not the sense of justice sufficiently developed to desire the responsibility of citizenship, they are yet unripe for legal status."

THESE are the views of some of our most prominent Nursing reformers—women whose abilities have gained for them positions in the front rank of Hospital superintendence—and each one who adds her influence to the Corporation by becoming a member, and registering under the voluntary system prescribed by the Royal Corporation of Nurses, does much by co-operation to attain the

desired end, by *proving* to the Government the desire for such reform and recognition.

ROME was not built in a day, neither is it possible to effect satisfactory changes in any community of workers without due consideration and patience, and a sincere wish for the ultimate good of the majority. A strong tree strikes deep roots, and is slow of growth; so with our profession, we must give it time. In seven short years the Association has struck roots in every quarter of the British Empire; its influence for good has far exceeded, in so short a time, the ardent ambition of its founders. What is now needed, the lever being there, is to raise slowly and surely the organisation of the future profession of Nursing. Nurses' education stands in the front rank of necessary reforms; it is, at present, in a chaotic condition; it must be quite reformed and reduced to order, and the sooner this is begun the better. When the majority of Nurses have agreed upon a curriculum of training, which will satisfy them for the time being (they must be for ever progressing), they must appeal to the powers that be, and obtain its enforcement.

MISS BEATRICE M. J. GRÆME, Lady Superintendent, and Miss McQUEEN, Assistant Nurse, of the Perth Sick Poor Nursing Society, have been invested by the Duchess-Dowager of ATHOL with their badges and brassards as Queen's Nurses. In the selection of the Duchess-Dowager for this office, and in her kindly willingness to undertake it, there was a happy fitness, on the triple ground that she is one of the oldest and most favoured of the Queen's ladies-in-waiting, a Perthshire-lady herself, and also a relative of the lady superintendent, Miss GRÆME.

CHANGES and improvements are being made at the Royal Free Hospital, under the able Superintendence of Miss WEDGEWOOD. The term of training for Probationers has been raised from three to four years, the Head Nurses in the wards are for the future to bear the title of "Sisters," and the system of maintaining a staff of private Nurses has been discontinued. We remember the Nursing regulations at the Royal Free Hospital ten years ago, and, by those who do so, it can confidently be asserted that no London Hospital has been more completely and satisfactorily reformed during the interval.

A MOST interesting ceremony lately took place at Malshanger, where, at the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. WILLIAM W. PORTAL, of the Royal Hants County Hospital at Winchester, a great gathering of the Nursing staff and their friends assembled to witness the distribution of prizes to the successful Probationers of the year. A most just and wise plan has been adopted by the authori-

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