

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



WE must call the attention of our readers to the important notices in the official column of the Royal British Nurses' Association, published in this week's issue. Arrangements are now completed for the Course of Preliminary Educational Lectures for those interested in Nursing, and which are to begin in October next.

These lectures are under the special patronage of Her Royal Highness the President, who has graciously intimated her intention of bestowing a prize, at the close of the course, upon the candidate who shall prove herself the most proficient in the subject of Practical Nursing—the course to be delivered by Miss ISLA STEWART, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

WE also learn that at the meeting of the Executive Committee held on July the 6th, it was decided to raise the fee for Registration from 10/6 to £1 1s., on and after January the 1st, 1895, as the fee hitherto charged does not cover the cost of maintaining the Register. We consider this a wise step in advance, as it cannot be disputed that the cost of issuing the Register—and this is necessarily very heavy—should be covered by the fee charged; it is not just that the subscriptions of members should be expended upon maintaining the Register of those Nurses who do not subscribe to the maintenance of the Association. We hope, in the future, that all Nurses who avail themselves of the benefits of Registration will become members, and thus all contribute a little in aid of the great and progressive work of organizing their profession.

DURING the summer residence of the Court at Osborne, Princess BEATRICE is to pay a visit to Southampton in connection with the local branch of the Jubilee Nurses' Institute, when a number of ladies will present purses to Her Royal Highness. Princess BEATRICE and Prince HENRY OF BATTENBERG will be conveyed from East Cowes to Southampton and back in the Royal yacht *Alberta*.

MISS E. R. LANDALE, whose valuable work for the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association in country Union Infirmaries gives her a right to speak, was requested to write the Thirtieth

Quarterly Letter to the Mary Adelaide Nurses, and so wise is much she says to these Nurses that it will be read with advantage by their colleagues in other branches of work.

To quote from this eloquent address:—

“As year by year progress is made in the nursing of the pauper sick, the Nurses in the large well-organised Infirmaries find it difficult to realise the terrible state of things which still exist in the smaller and provincial Union Hospitals. The Guardians of these are now awakening to a sense of their duty to provide efficient nursing for their charges, and it is in view of the difficulties which lie before you, when sent to undertake such work, that I write.

The Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association is besieged with applications for Nurses to organize and work the country Infirmaries. Alas! the demand exceeds the supply. We cannot get enough Nurses sufficiently good for the work. The best women are wanted, the best Nurses. Surely among the thousand of Nurses in Britain, there must be many who are called to be servants of the poor, as well as servants of the sick. It is hard work, I admit, but if our life-dedication is service, shall we choose only what is pleasant to us? Shall we not rather seek to get to the front rank of the work! and the front rank is, I take it, not where the highest pay is to be had; or where most consideration is to be shown us; or where the 'position' is good; but, where our best work is called forth, and where such work is most needed; where the ranks are thinnest; where your way will not lie over the asphaltic of use and want, but in the rough path of the pioneer. Nothing second-rate will do there. The Nurse who goes to introduce, in her person, skilled Nursing at the small village union, has no small responsibility. She is a standard bearer to the front. Think what the whole profession risks on her, nothing less than the prestige of trained Nursing in the district to which she goes.

(1) The first difficulty that meets you is, you have no position. It lies with you to make it. The patients, the Guardians, the Master, the Matron, and I fear often the Doctor, have no idea what the Nurse's work and position really is. (2) You have to contend with the officialism of the Master and Matron; and the (3) inertia or false economies of the Guardians; (4) the inelasticity and red-tapism of the Poor-Law Regulations; (5) the abuses arising from pauper help; (6) the want of appliances; and, to crown all, (7) the personal discomfort and isolation of the life.

Nothing but a thoroughly *cheerful spirit*, determined to be cast down by no discomfort; determinately blind to every slight will start you fair in the work. Such a spirit will not come to you by inspiration at need; you must cultivate it from the very first; you must exercise yourself in evenness of temper, and gain practice in an immovable equanimity and 'even balance of soul.' A Workhouse Infirmary Nurse has to be the very Mark Tapley of the profession; but remember the root of all true cheerfulness is unselfishness.

In the large Infirmaries the Nurses have no idea of the extent of the abuse arising from pauper help. It is a terrible difficulty, and at times it seems unendurable. I think the only thing to be done is to accustom yourselves to take a wide grasp of the work. Take the work into your minds as a whole, even while you are busy at the detail. For in a small Union Hospital you have not only to plan the work for the ward-people, but you have to make them feel that you are ubiquitous. Make them feel, also, that you expect them to do right, and there is a chance they may not do so badly, but you can never trust to them, yet it has the worst effect

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