

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



It has been suggested by Nurse Groom, R.B.N.A., in a contemporary, that the Nurse members should subscribe and pay the £150 incurred by the Executive Committee in consequence of their threat to remove a Nurse's name from the Register, for complaining of being refused what was a distinct legal right. We think this is an admirable

suggestion on the part of Nurse Groom, who heads the subscription list, as by this means the money of those members who strongly object to the proceedings in question will not be used for the legal expenses in this deplorable case. Personally, we are of opinion that the members of the Executive Committee who caused the threatening letter to be sent to the Nurse should pay the costs—and we are surprised that they have not at once offered to do so.

* * * THE quarterly issue of the *Nurses' Journal* always gives us food for reflection, and the lamentable misrepresentation of facts in the present number compels us to point out to our readers that this paper cannot claim in any way to represent the views either of the members—or even of the members of the Executive Committee—as it is issued entirely under the direction of the six honorary officers and Dr. Coupland, with Miss de Pledge, Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary, as editor, and not one line of matter is submitted to the Executive Committee—as it ought to be.

* * * With Miss de Pledge's platitudes concerning the proceedings at the late General Meeting we have not space to deal. Suffice it to say that she was well aware when writing them that the proposer of the defamatory resolution was not a member of the Association, and that a legal demand had been made that the libellous Resolution alleged to have been passed at the meeting should not be published in the official organ of the Association. This demand, it appears, she must have known had been complied with by the Executive Committee, because no report of the proceedings at the General Meeting on January 28th appears in the *Nurses' Journal*.

"The gods, some mortals, and Miss de Pledge" have also expressed their opinion on the subject of "State Registration of Nurses," owing, we presume, to the fact that strong exception has been taken in this journal and elsewhere by some of our most influential Nurse members to the fact that a member voted at a public meeting in the name of the *Royal British Nurses' Association*, but without authority from the Corporation, in favour of the following resolution:—"That a legal system for the registration of Nurses is inexpedient in principle, injurious to the best interests of Nurses, and of doubtful public benefit"!

* * * The opinions expressed in the article are pitifully weak, and there is only one sentence of importance, which is as follows:—"It is for the Association to take the initiative in any attempt to induce Parliament to accept this reform [State registration], and we are not aware that the question has ever been fully considered in all its bearings by the Association itself." Exactly—as usual, the Corporation has not been consulted upon this vital point, and yet a delegate from the Executive Committee is permitted to vote against the principle for which the Association was founded eight years ago.

* * * But the members may take heart of grace—the whole history of our Association contains the lesson of the force of principle prevailing over prejudice. Well do we remember the historic Council Meeting in 1889, when Miss Mollett exploded a bomb in its midst by proposing that we should at once apply for the Royal Charter! This "impatient advocacy" of "ardent enthusiasts" simply electrified the meeting, and yet such is the force of conscientious and consistent policy that the Association was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1893!

* * * So will it be with the Parliamentary Bill. The few "ardent enthusiasts" who are inspired with a sense of duty—and, unlike the majority of persons, uninfluenced by expediency—have simply to go steadily on, educating both the public and the Nurses on this great question, and we have not the slightest doubt that, when these persons have by drudgery and persistence aroused the public conscience on the matter, as usual some one "will take the initiative," and as with the Royal Charter—and the principle of co-operative labour for Nurses—attempt to reap where others have sown. It may not be altogether an admirable policy, "but 'twill serve."

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