

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\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



WE have pleasure to announce that the prize of one guinea for the Nursing Notes of a Case, has this month been awarded to Miss Hildred, of Barton-on-Humber, for her "Notes on a District Nursing Case of Amputation of Left Arm, and Comminuted Fractures of both Legs." The

Notes will be published at an early date.

\* \* \* The Notes on "The Removal of an Ovarian Tumour," sent in by Miss Margaret Haughton, Barringtons Hospital, Limerick, are highly commended.

\* \* \* AS we go to press the quarterly meeting of the Matrons' Council is being held. We hope, therefore, to give an account in our next issue of the Conference on the Prospects and Principles of Legislation for Nurses.

\* \* \* IT is expected that the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Council will report to the Council—that it is advisable that the attempt to obtain State Registration of Nurses should be postponed, owing to the strong conflict of opinion in the Nursing world concerning the subject. These are always the preliminary tactics in all necessary reforms; the persons who would benefit by legal status are seldom directly consulted, so with the Nurses, their employers, their superior officials, the paid officers, are gathered together in Conference. As is quite human, these ladies and gentlemen express their opinions—formed usually from the point of view of the needs of their special Hospital or Institution.

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For instance, one lady will give her reason for denying thoroughly qualified Nurses their legal rights—that in the Poor-Houses (pest houses rather) in rural districts, and in Ireland, a sufficient supply of trained Nurses cannot yet be provided. She would, however, give State recognition as independent practitioners to the same women if they would consent to learn Midwifery for a few months, instead of Nursing for three years. The force of the argument does not appeal to us trained Nurses.

\* \* \* Again, a kindly gentleman, who has also something to do with Midwives, will consent to the issues of Registration being doubly public, by placing on a Directory the names of all Nurses—good, bad, and indifferent. But to stamp the women as Registered Nurses who have conscientiously, by long and arduous training, qualified themselves for their responsible duties—certainly not! Is it possible that these highly qualified and registered Nurses would in any way interfere with the very profitable businesses at present carried on by certain Institutions, which "turn out" country and maternity Nurses by the dozen, after a few months' training, for very considerable fees? This is a point.

\* \* \* And so on *ad infinitum*. But the sum total of all the foolish and interested arguments results in bringing the matter of State Registration into the region of practical politics, which is all that is needed at present. It will come, as other necessary reforms have come—not to-day, or to-morrow, but some one day. The next step is an organised effort upon the part of those Nurses who feel that it is *right*—both for the welfare of the sick, rich and poor—that the position of the trained Nurse should be defined in the body politic, and this step will doubtless be taken.

\* \* \* WE are looking forward with keen anticipation to receiving the Paper to be read by Miss L. L. Dock, "A National Association of Nurses and its Legal Organisation," and the discussion thereon, at the forthcoming Conference of American Superintendents at Philadelphia on the 14th inst., and hope to print it in the RECORD at an early date.

\* \* \* WITH reference to the paragraph which appeared on the 11th inst., concerning Nursing

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