

## 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\* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.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 in announcing that, for the future, Miss M. Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants. Infirmary, will contribute two columns of Practical Nursing Notes each alternate week. With her wide experience in Nursing matters, we feel sure her contributions will be of great value to our readers.

THE Conference between delegates from the representative Nursing Societies and the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association will take place on Tuesday, the 14th inst., at 429, Strand, the office of the *British Medical Journal*, at 3 p.m. Miss Isla Stewart—Chairman of the Matrons' Council—has been deputed to attend by the Executive Committee of that Society, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be present to represent the Registered Nurses' Society.

THE *Homœopathic Review*—which is always up to date in Nursing matters, says, in connection with the education of Nurses:—

“The transition from the consideration of medical women's claims to the affairs of the Nursing profession is an easy one. Here at least ‘women's rights’ remain practically unchallenged. In another issue we have traced—briefly and superficially—the progress of Nursing from the ‘Gamp’ days to the present. We have seen the vanguard of the Nursing body uniting themselves to improve the education and training of Nurses, and to protect their position. Out of this movement has developed the (now very usual) ‘three years’ system,’ and official Registration as carried out by the Royal British Nurses' Association.

Matters, however, are not to rest here. About a year ago, if we remember rightly, a considerable and ever-increasing number of Matrons banded themselves together, under the title of the Matrons' Council, to advance the interests of the profession. Quarterly meetings are held, at which papers are read by members on theoretical and practical subjects. So far the education of Nurses has received considerable attention. In addition, however, a series of ‘Post-graduate Demonstrations on Practical Nursing’ has been arranged, the first of the Course having already been given.

We may say, briefly, that one of the chief objects of Nursing authorities at present is to secure an uniform curriculum of education for Nurses. To be effective this is to be State regulated, and is to include diploma granting and State Registration. Whether or not a preliminary course of teaching and an examination (analogous to those passed by students intending to enter the medical profession) are desirable, is a point of importance, and what subjects deserve the ante-probation's attention is not of less consequence. To bring about these ends so eminently desirable, if wisely pursued, the support and influence of the medical profession are needed. It is already clear that this will not be wanting. We learn from the *NURSING RECORD* of the 21st ult., that a conference of the representatives of Nursing schools has been called by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association. The meeting is to discuss the following resolution, proposed by Dr. Bedford Fenwick, and carried at the annual meeting of the British Association in July last:—‘That in the opinion of this meeting it is expedient that an Act of Parliament should, as soon as possible, be passed providing for the Registration and education of medical, surgical, and obstetric Nurses; and the Council of this Association are, therefore, requested to consider this matter, and to take such measures as may seem to them advisable to obtain such legislation.’ The conference is to take place early this month.

The work in which Nursing authorities are thus entering is one surrounded on all hands by difficulties, many of which are not even yet apparent. We hope and believe that it will not be entered upon lightly. By imperfect and premature work harm may be done to a good cause. That this new year of 1896 will be one of great importance to Nurses, medical men, Hospitals, and through them to the public in its ‘hours of woe,’ appears more than probable. That the result may be ‘the greatest good of the greatest number’ is the sincere wish of all concerned, as it is our own.”

It is very gratifying to hear that another Infirmary—this time the Infirmary of St. George's-in-the-East—has decided to adopt the three years' system of training with the courses of Lectures, both theoretical and practical, which are such an essential part of the education of a Nurse. This opens up another Training School in London and will help to meet the great demand for vacancies which at present it is impossible to supply.

A CHARMING Christmas tree entertainment took place on Monday last at the Homœopathic Hospital, which was equally enjoyed by the patients, the staff, and all who were fortunate enough to obtain an invitation.

NURSING Lectures are to be given at Toynbee Hall during the coming Session. Courses of five lectures will begin for women on January 17th, and for men on the day previous, the lecturers being Dr. Alfred Eddowes

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