

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



SINCE the issue of our last Special Number, several matters of importance have taken place in the Nursing world proving the truth of the principle of evolution, and it is in a most hopeful spirit that we glance back to recall progress effected, and with which we can also look forward.

In England the event of first importance which has taken place without doubt was the personal reception by Her Majesty the Queen of the Nurses of the Jubilee Institute at Windsor—a mark of favour and interest upon the part of our gracious Sovereign which reflected honour upon the whole Nursing profession.

Second in importance comes the success of the Nursing Exhibition in conjunction with the first Nursing Conference held in London in June of this year, the educational value of both of which was universally admitted.

The formation of the Colonial Nursing Association, supported as it is by the approval of the Colonial Office, will no doubt prove of very great value in our Crown Colonies, when the Society is fully organised and in working order.

In Scotland, we learn of the ever-increasing favour and progress of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, under the very able management of the Hon. Secretary, Miss Guthrie Wright, and the Lady Superintendent, Miss Wade.

The Scottish Branch of the Royal British Nurses' Association has not succeeded, and we must again point out that it is not likely to do so until the Matrons and Nurses are permitted to take more responsibility in its Councils. The fact that this Branch is the only one where the attempt has been made to organise the Nurses under a Medical Hon. Secretary—instead of a Nurse—is quite sufficient to account for its failure. We have no doubt that Dr. Calder Leith is actuated by the most amiable

desire to help the Scottish Nurses in accepting the position of Hon. Secretary, but the principle of a Woman's Association officered solely by men is wrong, and is bound to fail, with the most worthy intentions in the world.

In Ireland, the result of the Special Commission of the *British Medical Journal* into the condition of the Poor Law Infirmaries is already beginning to be felt for good. An Irish Workhouse Nursing Association has been founded of ladies and gentlemen interested in the reform of the management of these Institutions, and the passing of a Parliamentary Bill granting to women the right to be Poor Law Guardians in Ireland is a most satisfactory measure, and one we hope of which Irishwomen will largely avail themselves in the service of theirsick and destitute.

In New Zealand it is proposed to establish a Branch of the Royal British Nurses' Association. Mrs. Neill, the able Inspector of Hospitals, having been appointed Hon. Secretary, and upon her wise suggestion we are informed an educational test will be compulsory for membership. This is a step in the right direction, and we congratulate Mrs. Neill upon her progressive policy, and we heartily wish her success in her important work.

In Victoria, Australia, the eight hours' day for Nurses is the question of the hour, and, as we have lately reported, is being discussed by the Government officials. The most significant point is the fact that the Premier has announced his intention to consult the Nurses themselves on this matter in which they are primarily interested before legislating for them. No doubt this decision on the part of the Premier will appear a too democratic method of government, where women are concerned, to Hospital managers in the old country; but we must remember that the women are enfranchised in New Zealand and are within measurable distance of this modicum of justice in the Australian Colonies; their interests can therefore no longer be ignored by a would-be successful politician. We only hope that the Nurses in Victoria will rise to the occasion and express their views on the matter in an entirely unselfish and conscientious manner.

But the good news from America is perhaps the most hopeful of all, because the women of the great Republic are setting us an example in the quiet, steady, and thorough-going manner in which they have set about the organisation of their profession, an example in depth of thought, width of view, and sisterly love which it would be well for British Nurses to follow.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)