

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* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



THE annual *Conversazione* of the Royal British Nurses' Association will be held on Friday, December 18th, in the Portman Rooms. The Princess Christian, President of the Association, has announced her intention of being present on this occasion, and of presenting badges to members.

We hope the policy of insult to which the Founders of the Association have been, for the past three years, constantly subjected will only make them more determined to claim and maintain the privileges which are theirs by law, under the Royal Charter, and that they will not absent themselves from the *Conversazione*. We have always warned the members who have the courage of their opinions *not* to resign—we reiterate the warning.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK attended the Conference of the National Union of Women Workers at Manchester, to represent the Matrons' Council, and is of opinion that the very greatest benefit will result to Women's Societies from affiliation with a National Union, which has been organised and is officered by many of the most intellectual women of our day—and women who are, moreover, inspired by a sense of personal responsibility towards those members of their sex who are weak and helpless.

MISS MARGERIE HOMERSHAM, M.R.B.N.A., and *diplômée* of the Sanitary Institute, has been appointed Lecturer on Hygiene at the Northern Polytechnic.

THE Nurses of St. George's Hospital are very pleased with the new regulation, whereby all of them will in turn go through a period of training in theatre work. This will not only make them much more skilful in the wards, but will materially aid those who intend taking up private Nursing.

WE are sure that all old Bart's Nurses will be very sorry to hear that Mrs. Boyce, who was Sister in Magdalen Ward for twenty years and in the service of the Hospital for upwards of thirty years, is in monetary difficulties. Her

only son—who was a young child when Sister Magdalen entered St. Bartholomew's, and whom she brought up and educated with true motherly devotion—is an in-patient at the Brompton Hospital, and his wife and three children are in the main dependent on what she can provide for them. Mrs. Boyce has only her Hospital pension, which is small and quite inadequate. A Fund has been started on her behalf, and Mr. Edgar Willett has kindly undertaken to receive contributions at 25, Welbeck Street, London, W.

Sister Magdalen's admirable work and her own personal qualities made her so respected and beloved that we are sure help will be forthcoming in her hour of need.

AN Association has been formed for providing a trained Nurse for the poor of Towcester, in which Lady Hesketh, the Rev. W. H. Deane (vicar of Towcester), Dr. W. T. Knight, and many others are keenly interested.

THE suggestion made by the Vestry of St. George's Parish, Southwark, that their newly-appointed lady sanitary inspector shall wear the uniform of a Hospital, has aroused some indignation in the medical papers. We addressed a letter to the Vestry enquiring whether the lady in question had received a Hospital training, but in the reply no information is given on this point, so the only conclusion possible is that she is not a trained Nurse.

WE had hoped that some check had been given to masquerading Nurses; but what hope does there seem to be when a public Vestry makes it a *sine quâ non* that its workers shall don a dress to which they are not entitled. There is absolutely no meaning in dressing a Sanitary Inspector as a Nurse, for there is no relation between the duties of the two workers. Has it ever occurred to the Vestry of St. George's to dress their male Inspector as a curate, or a policeman, or even as a fireman? Any one of these would be as suitable as the dress they propose for the lady Inspector.

THE *Daily Telegraph*, commenting on the matter, says:—"What kind of a Nurse shall she be. Many Nurses wear uniforms which are neat and natty, others are got up like 'guys,' while the sisters of St. Vincent de Paul wear a head-dress more remarkable for its whiteness, starchiness, and extent than for æsthetic beauty. Which of these is the lady Sanitary Inspector to wear? Ought she not to be allowed to design a dress for herself? Or why not remit the subject to the President of the Local Government Board?"

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