

THE "NURSES' JOURNAL."

DURING the past two years we have commented on various occasions concerning the danger of the official organ of the Royal British Nurses' Association being conducted by an irresponsible editor, most unconstitutionally exempted from the control of the Executive Committee. We foretold the result of such an autocracy, and events have confirmed our warning. We therefore welcome the official notice in the current issue of the *Nurses' Journal* that it is "Edited by an Editorial Committee" again, as it was in the good old days. We only hope that the policy of exclusion and misrepresentation for which the journal has become notorious will be abandoned. Members of an Association cannot, with self-respect, submit to being traduced and insulted in their official organ, and to having their replies excluded without taking strong measures to protect themselves and their colleagues from such unjustifiable and reprehensible proceedings.

A CHRISTIAN SISTERHOOD.

WHAT is termed a "Christian Sisterhood" has been organised in Brooklyn, U.S.A., at the instigation of Dr. Catlin. The seven women who have joined it have been trained in the care of the sick, and are to devote themselves to the relief of suffering amongst the poor without remuneration. We cannot hope that voluntary service, uncontrolled by disciplined organisation, can carry out the nursing of the sick poor on the most satisfactory lines, and we could wish that some central organisation for district nurses, upon the lines of the Queen's Jubilee Institute, could be adopted in the United States. Individual charitable effort is often contrary to the best interests of the poor, and pauperisation results.

Appointment.

MISS MARY ESTHER JONES has been appointed matron to the new Park Fever Hospital, the latest palace built by the Metropolitan Asylums Board. Miss Jones was trained and certificated at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, from 1883-86, and subsequently gained experience in the Cardiff Infirmary and at the Minsall Fever Hospital. She was appointed matron of the Borough Hospital, Devizes, in 1890, and for upwards of three years has held the position of matron to the Eastern Fever Hospital at Homerton. Miss Jones is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association (being at present on the Executive Committee), and a registered nurse.

Nursing the Plague.

WHEN the terrible news reached England in the autumn that the Bubonic Plague had broken out in Bombay, the thoughts of all true nurses were turned to the question as to how patients suffering with this terrible disease were to be nursed. Those who had any experience of nursing in India, and could estimate at their true value the climatic and enormous racial difficulties, waited anxiously for reliable information and advice upon the subject. In the *British Medical Journal* of the 30th of January, a most instructive article appeared by Mr. James Cantlie, in which he remarks, in alluding to the nursing of this disease, "once for all let it be understood that in no disease does one get such immediate results, from careful and prompt medical treatment, and as a direct outcome of watchful nursing, as in plague." About this time it was rumoured that the India Office had taken the initiative in the matter, and was about to despatch nurses to help to nurse the plague in Bombay. Upon receiving this information, a representative of the NURSING RECORD called at the India Office to make inquiries concerning the details of the arrangements made by that department. She was informed that so far there had been no demand from the authorities in India for nurses, and that the report that nurses were being sent to Bombay through the India Office, was without foundation; but should any future arrangements be contemplated we should be informed at once. Three weeks have now elapsed since we made these inquiries; and so far we have had no intimation that the India Office intends to take action concerning this matter of national importance. We have, therefore, taken steps to place before the public the necessity for at once increasing the number of nurses in plague-stricken districts, and thus relieving the strain of over-work from which the noble women are suffering, who are at present attempting to cope with this terrible and increasing epidemic.

Our readers are aware that the three following hospitals in Bombay, the European, the Jamsetji, and the Kama, are nursed by the devoted sisters of the All Saints' community, and it may interest them to know that quite lately the Municipal and Parsee Hospitals have been opened for the reception of plague-stricken patients, and the following quotations from the correspondence of a sister of the All Saints' community, who has been working in the Bombay hospitals for many years, will bring graphically before our readers the true condition of affairs.

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