

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* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



At the dinner given at St. James's Restaurant, by Mr. T. R. Roberts, President of the Balclava Society, to fifty-eight survivors of the famous charge, the toast to Miss Florence Nightingale was drunk with enthusiasm.

* * *

WE have been asked by some members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, whether the fact of their signing the petition

for a public inquiry into the management of this body, entails their adhesion to the formal protests which have been issued. We desire, therefore, to point out that they pledge themselves to *nothing* beyond the fact that they desire an independent inquiry into the management of the Association, and if they believe that the charges made against the officials cannot be substantiated, obviously the best thing to do is to demand a public inquiry at which these charges can be disproved.

* * *

MUCH of the future welfare of the profession of nursing is in the hands of the matrons of hospitals; they are the trustees of the rights and privileges won, but not yet fully enjoyed, which were granted to the whole nursing profession in the Royal Charter of 1893; and woe to those amongst them who have neither the courage nor conscience to preserve these rights. Truly future generations of nurses will not rise up and call them blessed, if they, for the sake of expediency, betray this sacred trust.

* * *

LADY LONDONDERRY recently delivered an interesting address on the subject of "District Nursing" at Sunderland, in the course of which she demonstrated not only the need for, and the good done by district nursing associations, but also incidentally, a wide knowledge of the many questions affecting the interests and welfare of nursing and nurses. Lady Londonderry observed that "it has surely become unnecessary at the present day to dwell upon the great importance of a thorough professional training for nurses. People are no longer ignorant of the essential qualifications of nurses. They realize that nursing is a profession, the highest and noblest profession a woman can embrace, and as

such demands a careful apprenticeship to ensure competency." With the public this is to a great extent the case, but we take this opportunity of pointing out that at present each hospital decides for itself the amount of training its pupils shall receive before being certificated, and that in some cases probationers are even certificated without any examination into their practical or theoretical knowledge. The time has now come for the public, who are beginning to recognize the necessity of a minimum training of three years, to protect themselves from incompetent and inefficient nurses by demanding a public register, to which they may have access, of those nurses who are duly qualified. The fact that the candidates for appointments in the Army, Navy, and Indian Army Nursing Services, as well as for posts under the Local Government Board, must hold a three years' certificate; as well as the report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords upon this matter, are evidence, if evidence is needed, of the necessity of recognizing the three years' standard of training as the lowest which can be accepted.

* * *

THE Duchess of Sutherland is busy with nursing affairs, and lately presided at the Annual Meeting of the Sutherland Benefit Nursing Association. Fourteen nurses are now at work in the county, and a lady superintendent nurse is to be appointed to inspect the work—this is good. The Duchess is also establishing a Benefit Nursing Association in Shropshire—to supply cottage nurses in that county. We hope the nurses will be given the longest training possible under the circumstances to fit them for their responsible duties.

* * *

MRS. OKELL, the popular matron of the Bridgewater Infirmary, has resigned her post after six years service. Mrs. Okell found the Infirmary "in rags," she leaves it one of the most beautifully ordered little hospitals in the country—having gained the respect of all connected with the institution, whose opinion is of any value.

* * *

NURSE MICHIE, who until recently has acted as district nurse at Pembroke Dock, has been presented with a handsome dressing bag and a purse containing £8 2s. 3d., upon her resignation of this work. Miss Michie has been appointed to the important post of inspector of nurses in Cornwall.

* * *

WE regret to hear that two of the nursing staff at Maidstone have contracted enteric fever. It is good news, however, that the notification of new cases has greatly decreased. We understand that Mrs. Bramwell Booth has sent down four nurses to nurse some of the sufferers in the epidemic.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)