

MR. EDITOR asks me to call attention to the important letter from Miss Catherine J. Wood, which appears in our Correspondence columns this week, and to say that he will take an early opportunity of referring to the matter at length. He tells me that he has inquired, and is informed that this scheme has, and will have, *no* connection with the British Nurses' Association, but is intended to be simply a commercial undertaking, which it is believed will not only be a great boon to Private Nurses, but will even pay a small rate of interest on the capital employed to start it. There is no doubt that the idea is a very good one. Some such scheme was suggested in this Journal many months ago, and Mr. Editor and I rather seemed to differ in our opinions upon the possibility of its success. He, however, expected it to be managed by business men; while I understood that it was to be conducted entirely by the Nurses themselves, and in that case prognosticated failure.

As I understand the matter now, Miss Wood suggests that some lady with money to invest is prepared to undertake the expense of starting it, and probably employ an experienced manager to conduct a Hotel for Nurses. The idea is most excellent, as might be expected, coming from one who so intimately knows what Nurses want. But whether it succeeds or not purely depends on the business powers of the conductors of the scheme. If it does not pay its way, nearly or altogether, no one can expect people, however philanthropic, to keep it going. I have heard it said that a Hotel, if it succeeds, means a fortune in ten years, and if it does not, means bankruptcy in ten months. So I am sure the success or not of this scheme will entirely depend, not on the number of Nurses who desire to avail themselves of its advantages, but upon the strict knowledge of the special business with which it is carried on.

OF course, although it is not to be connected in any way with the British Nurses' Association, as Miss Wood is evidently interested in the scheme, it is, I presume, sure to secure the great powers of business and of organisation possessed by the Executive Committee of that wonderfully successful Union. I would, therefore, most strongly advise all Nurses who are anxious to avail themselves of this chance to write to Miss Wood at once.

TALKING of the British Nurses' Association reminds me to speak about the Midwives' Institute and Trained Nurses' Club. It is an estimable society, in that its first object is "to raise the efficiency and improve the status of Midwives,

and to petition Parliament for their recognition." There is something wanting, however. Perhaps some of my readers who belong to it can explain wherein the deficiency exists. Is it lack of energy or discretion on the part of the managers, or lack of interest on the part of Midwives? I am told that it has been in existence for some three years or longer, and yet I find that it has only one hundred and fifty members. Of these I see that seventeen are lay members—that is, I suppose, neither Nurses nor Midwives—seventy are Trained Nurses, and only fifty-eight are Midwives, while five have no distinct designation at all.

Now considering that the Obstetrical Society alone has licensed between six hundred and seven hundred Midwives, either very little energy is shown in inducing these ladies to become members, or else Trained Midwives see very little good to be gained in joining the club. I am told that many, however, of these are joining the British Nurses' Association. I frankly confess that I cannot understand why the Midwives' Club should so largely consist of Trained Nurses, many of whom I hear are members of the British Nurses' Association; nor, on the other hand, why Midwives should join the latter body in preference to the club formed for their own use. I wish some of my readers would enlighten me on these matters. And then, once more, if the club is a professional body, it is very anomalous to admit lay members, and, in fact, to have one member out of every six who is neither Nurse nor Midwife surely destroys the special character of the club altogether.

MR. EDITOR asks me to remind our readers about the coming election of the British Home for Incurables—in May—and for their united assistance in working for Mrs. Duyck, and obtaining votes for her. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," and this poor Nurse has had to wait long for a chance of a pension of £20. I am very glad, however, to hear that her name has been placed on a special list, and that she will, therefore, obtain election earlier than otherwise would have been the case. Mr. Editor has just received the following letter from her: "Mrs. Duyck acknowledges with grateful thanks the sum of twelve shillings and sixpence, received from the Editor of the *Nursing Record*, being contributions sent to him for that purpose. Mrs. Duyck cannot say how grateful she is for the constant kindness shown to her by readers of that paper."

GLASGOW at any rate cares for its Nurses. I hear that the following, which appeared last week in the *Glasgow Herald*, has led to an active correspon-

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