

## NURSING ECHOES.

*\*\* Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

THE Meeting of the General Council of the British Nurses' Association, held last Friday, was, as usual, most interesting. It was announced that Princess Christian was unavoidably—and to her great regret—unable to be present, and that Mr. Savory, who took the chair, did so at Her Royal Highness's request. Certainly, no better chairman could have been found, and Nurses owe one more debt of gratitude to the distinguished President of the Royal College of Surgeons for once again coming forward to publicly assist them. Mr. Editor tells me that our representative has sent him a verbatim report of the proceedings, and that he will publish as much of it as possible next week, so I need not describe the business in detail.

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Two or three points, however, which appear to me to be specially important, I may shortly comment upon. It was decided that for this year the provisions under which Nurses have been hitherto admitted as Members of the Association should continue in force. Bye-Law IV., I find on referring to it, runs thus:—"Until January 1st, 1889, the following shall be eligible to become members, on producing to the Executive Committee satisfactory evidence of professional attainments and personal character, and of having been engaged for three years in Nursing—viz., the past or present Matrons or Lady Superintendents, Sisters, or Nurses of any public Hospital or Infirmary, or public or district Nursing Association, in the British Empire, all Trained Midwives and women who have been engaged in Private Nursing." So that the only change, apparently, will be that we must read 1890 for 1889 in the above clause.

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THE one objection, to my mind, in thus admitting any woman who has nursed for three years to the privileges of Membership of this wonderfully successful Association, is, that many may this year apply for Membership merely in order to gain a standing, to which otherwise they would have no claim. But I am told, on very good authority, that experience has shown that it is only the better class and educated women, who have thus far come forward to join the Association, and that it is believed by the Executive Committee, under these circumstances, that there is no necessity to increase the stringency of the regulations at present. In any case it is erring on the side of liberality, as there is no doubt that

hereafter the regulations for the admission of Members will be made very strict. I hear—though my informant is not quite sure of the accuracy of the report—that the Executive Committee has already decided that after four thousand members have been admitted, Nurses must pay an entrance fee, in addition to their annual subscription. If this has really been settled, the sooner Nurses who are eligible join the Association the better. At the beginning of October there were, I find on referring to old numbers of this Journal, only one thousand members, and now it appears that there are more than two thousand two hundred, an increase of twelve hundred, that is to say, in three months; and at this rate, in another five months, the numbers will be over four thousand.

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GENERAL satisfaction was expressed at the Council at hearing of the appointment of Miss Wood as Secretary. Few women in the Nursing profession are better known and more generally respected, and no more appropriate choice could certainly have been made. I hear that Dr. Bedford Fenwick will continue to act as Hon. Secretary, and supervise, as hitherto, the business details of the work. But what most people will think is the most wonderful part of the Report is the fact that the whole expenses of the Association hitherto have been less than £220. When one considers what a stir has been made, and how splendidly successful the movement has been, it is wonderful at how small a cost such great results have been achieved. Of course the explanation is, that offices and work have been all provided gratuitously; and as one speaker at the meeting said, all Nurses ought to be most grateful for such assistance having been given to their Association.

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THE last matter which especially pleased me was the resolution to establish a central Home for the Association. I am sure this will prove to be most wise for many reasons. Firstly, it is always a source of strength and sign of stability to possess a local habitation as well as a name. And then nothing will be so useful to Provincial members as to have some such place of resort in London. Numbers of Nurses would like to come to London from Provincial Hospitals for their holidays, or for a brief visit for shopping, or for pleasure, but are debarred from doing so, simply because they do not know of any respectable lodging, and few can, of course, afford the expense of going to an hotel. As I understand the scheme, it is most excellent. The ground floor is to be used as offices for the Association, and the upper floors furnished as bedrooms to be let to members at

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