

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\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THERE is an increasing feeling, which has found expression from various quarters, that nursing organization in the future will be best assisted by the formation of local branches in connection with a central society. The suggestion is a good one. Community of sentiment, mutual co-operation, and steadfast purpose, will level greater difficulties than those which the nursing profession have, at present, to face.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN visited the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, on Friday, and distributed certificates, granted by the St. John's Ambulance Association, to the nurses who had attained efficiency in giving "first aid to the injured."

A MEETING was held at Grosvenor House, on the 9th inst., of friends of Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, to meet a committee of those connected with the London and provincial music-halls, for the purpose of forming a permanent committee of representatives of the music-hall profession to assist annually the funds of the institution. The Duke of Westminster presided, and, in moving the first resolution, pledging the meeting to appoint a permanent committee, said that all those who had had any experience of the world would appreciate the absolute necessity of nursing in connection with the work of medical men and in combating disease. He could not imagine a greater blessing to the subjects of the Queen than the extension of a system of nursing the poor in their own homes, such as the Queen's Institute carried out, over the whole country, and this they hoped yet to achieve. He thanked the representatives of the music-halls for their large contribution last year, and hoped their assistance would be continued, and even increased.

A GENERAL report of the institute showed that the total amount subscribed, directly and indirectly, to the institute in commemoration of the Jubilee was £156,000. In addition to this there was £18,994 collected in the provinces for local nursing associations, which were not yet affiliated

with the Queen's Institute, but which would be affiliated in the near future. Mr. G. A. Payne seconded the motion, remarking that they hoped to give the entertainment in aid of the Institute this year in one of the largest halls in London, such as the Alhambra or the Empire, and to much increase their subscription. The representatives of the music-halls in London were unanimous in the desire to make their assistance permanent.

No woman is reported to have spoken on this occasion, and a Committee was formed to further the object of the Meeting entirely composed of men. We presume, therefore, that the work of women Stars of the Music Halls will not be requisitioned in support of the movement; somehow we think entertainments, minus the talents of our Nellie Farren, our Cissy Loftus, and other Queens of Burlesque, will fall a little flat. Or would it not be wiser to add the names of some of these ladies to the Committee. We have drawn attention before to the fact that in England the management of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute—which was founded with the money of the women of the Empire—in honour of a woman, and the whole of the splendid work of which (including much drudgery) is done by women, is now being almost exclusively governed by men. The usual cogent excuse that men pay the piper, and have therefore a right to call the tune, cannot be justly advanced in this instance. In Scotland, owing to the fact that the President and Hon. Secretary are both women, the position of our sex in the Council of the Institute, is a much more dignified one.

REUTER in a telegram from New York gives the following item of information:—"A telegram from Havana states that Her Majesty's cruiser *Talbot* sailed thence on the 7th inst. with a number of persons who had been expelled from Cuba by the Spanish authorities, including Miss Mary Wilberforce, of the British Red Cross Society. Miss Wilberforce was conducted on board, and had no option but to leave, though she was treated with all courtesy." Now what we desire to know is—Is this Miss Mary Wilberforce the same person as Maud M. Wilberforce, who was, and perhaps still is, a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association? We consider, that in that case, it is the duty of the Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association to make enquiries into this matter and to ascertain why Miss Wilberforce has been "expelled from Cuba." It is well known that some most undesirable women have been permitted to continue members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, although details of their history are perfectly well known to the Hon. Officers—and some members of the Executive

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