

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*All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



WHEN it became known that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick had been invited to act as Convener of the Professional Section of the forthcoming International Congress of Women, it was a sine qua non, that an attack would be made upon her by Sir Henry Burdett, in his paper, "The Hospital," so that no one is in the least surprised at the malicious article which appeared in that publication on the 25th inst., and it would be beneath notice did it not contain purposely misleading statements concerning the arrangements sanctioned by the Committee of Arrangements in relation to the Nursing section. To quote "How Lady Aberdeen, as an Englishwoman can remain president of a Congress which declares through the Sub-Committee of Arrangements, that English nursing and English speakers on nursing and medical topics are not entitled to be heard or considered passes our understanding."

Now, this is, of course, only written with malicious intent. The Committee of Arrangements have considered it courteous and just to invite three ladies from our Colonies, Canada and the States, to do us the honour and pleasure of reading the three papers, at the International Congress, and three other foreign visitors to open the discussions. But free discussion is open to every member of the Conference who desires to speak, and we happen to know that several eminent English Matrons intend to take an active part in the discussions, and that as Lady Aberdeen and Mrs. Creighton are going to preside at the morning and afternoon sessions, no accusation of partiality will be possible.

THE publicity given to the fact that legislation is desired by many members of the nursing profession to effect efficiency and reform, and that these justifiable demands are being strenuously opposed by an illiberal faction of Hospital Committee men, medical men, and the Matrons with whom they have influence, has created a keen interest in the Nursing Question in the minds of many unprejudiced women, leaders in the various branches of work to which they have devoted their great abilities, with the result that they intend to be present at the Nursing Session, and

make themselves fully acquainted with the rights of the case.

IN relation to the "Hospital" attack, we may mention that a so-called "Matrons' Committee" has been formed, with Miss C. J. Wood, of the Nurses' Hostel Company, as Chairwoman, and Miss Maule, of the "Hospital" editorial staff, as Hon. Secretary, composed, amongst others, of Mrs. Theodore Acland, Miss Rosalind Paget, and Miss de Pledge, the two former ladies never having held the position of Matron during their short hospital careers. These ladies have issued a manifesto in the name of the Nursing Profession!! declining to take "an official part in the meetings" and expecting Hospital Matrons all over the country to boycott the Nursing Section!

WE seem to remember two appropriate little stories relating to the three doughty Tailors of Tooley Street, and also to the perky little Milkmaid of nursery rhyme fame. The truth is that this Matrons' Committee, which is not composed of Matrons, is making itself very ridiculous, and inspired as it evidently is, with strong personal feeling, is reflecting no credit upon the Nursing Profession at large.

PREBENDARY KITTO, presiding at the meeting of the East London Nursing Association at St. Martin's Town Hall, said that scientific nursing was an invention of the present generation, and ever since the time when Miss Florence Nightingale first began her work a great change had taken place with regard to it. District nursing also was a modern invention. At the present time, throughout the area over which the East London Nursing Association took control, every poor person who needed nursing assistance could obtain it. Nowhere is skilled nursing more needed than in East End homes where the conditions of life are strenuous, and where the able-bodied have to work so hard in order to obtain necessary food and clothing that there is little time, and less knowledge to devote to the care of the sick and ailing.

THE report of the Staffordshire Nursing Institution is a record of excellent work done by an institution having a high reputation for the standard of its work. The Institution is organized on the just plan of giving its nurses the whole benefit of their earnings, no charitable schemes being supported out of the nurses' fees. There are, in our opinion, only two ways justifiable in managing a private nurses' institution. Either it should be founded on the co-operative principle, or on such lines as the Staffordshire Institute for Nurses, where all the earnings of the nurses are used directly for their benefit. Many nurses, who have no homes of their own,

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