

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\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



ONE unprofessional person, who, being a law unto himself, imagines that his word is also law to the nursing profession, the exploiting of which has been so eminently remunerative to non-professional persons, ventured, a few weeks ago, to predict that the International Nursing Conference would have absolutely no influence upon nursing thought or progress. We ventured to differ from this lay opinion, and with the usual result—we were right.

SINCE the great Congress of Women, with its far-reaching, and not yet to be estimated results, we have had many talks with nurses of experience from many lands, and we have been sincerely thankful to find that, without one exception, the lines on which we have advised professional organization, and professional advance, are the lines on which, in all civilised countries, nursing progress is being made.

FROM the States, Canada, our Australian Colonies, New Zealand, Cape Colony, and more slowly, but none the less surely, in Europe also, thoughtful women, especially the experienced nurses themselves, are daily seeing more and more clearly that, if real efficiency is to be effected in nursing the sick, the education of the nurse must be along well-defined scientific lines, and that the type of woman to effect this efficiency, must be women of the widest culture and the highest moral integrity, capable of original thought and self-government, and that the root of this body of professional workers will be found deep down in the congenial soil of a liberal education, from which the sturdy tree of trained nursing will push upwards towards the light.

FROM the futile attempts to inculcate professional *esprit de corps* amongst heterogeneous units, by Pumblechookian pampering and patronage, we women are learning the lesson—and, better still, taking it to heart—all the world over, that self-help is best-help, and that no self-respecting body of professional workers can flourish on any other basis.

THE editor of this journal, -whose optimism on nursing matters is proverbial, and which is a subject sometimes for sly little pokes of fun, upon the part of her less hopeful fellow workers, does feel, this week, justified in using that time-honoured phrase, "I told you so." Yes, brave little band of women who in this country have stood sturdily to your principles, the tide is turning, the sense of duty which inspired you to attempt nursing organization and reform, and which fortified you to resist oppression and wrong at home, has been the object lesson to your colleagues in other lands. Those members of the British Nurses' Association who founded with so much hope that union of nurses on the impregnable rock of Principle, and who stood by those principles under the most unscrupulous intimidation ever exercised by the strong against the weak, you will have your reward, in that the Leagues and Councils of Nurses now springing into life are to be Nurses' Associations formed of and governed by nurses, and inspired by that same spirit which has given you power to "keep the faith," that *intangible power of conscience*, which is stronger than all the combined brute force in the world.

THE Treasurers of the Up-Country Nursing Association for Europeans in India call attention to the undoubted usefulness of the Society. Referring to the Colonial Nursing Association, they say there is a sister association which is passing its youth in obscurity and difficulty, though it boasts her Majesty as its patron, past Viceroys of India, and the present one among its subscribers, and though it is doing surely, but too slowly, the work for which it was brought into being. This sister association is the Up-Country Nursing Association for Europeans in India. Six years ago it started work with a sum of about £800 and some £40 in yearly subscriptions raised through a public appeal. Roughly described, its work has been to help into existence local nursing centres, and, when possible, to renew and increase their staffs, to be a permanent agency for the selection of suitable nurses—in short, to be the necessary feeder in this country to local effort in India. Now the funds are running low, though fresh claims upon the resources come from India almost by every mail.

THE Indian association asks for yearly subscriptions of 5s. each from all retired Anglo-Indians, from all who have relations or friends quartered in India, from all who have travelled there, from the many who have known what it is to lose dear ones there simply for lack of good nursing.

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