

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* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



WE would remind our readers that the coupons and answers of competitors for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize of a guinea must reach us not later than the first post on Tuesday, February 26th, so that this week's issue contains the last coupon. Last month several letters reached us after the date arranged for deciding the competition.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has an article in last week's *Queen* on the coming Congress of Nurses, at Buffalo, illustrated with charming portraits of the President, Miss Isabel McIsaac, and the Vice-President, Miss Emma J. Keating, and Mrs. Hampton Robb. After touching on the details of organisation already accomplished, Mrs. Fenwick writes:—

"England holds a proud position as the mother of modern scientific nursing, and it is only seemly that her voice should be heard in the deliberations of nurses foregathered from all quarters of the globe in the radiant West. British women must not minimise the importance of this parliament of nurses, nor fail to realise the fact that during the past decade American nurses have made immense strides in organisation, both in defining the curriculum of nursing education and in its practical application to the care of the sick, as also in the equally important direction of defining the status of the trained nurse. Owing to a variety of adverse influences, unfortunately always brought to bear upon the attempt of women to help themselves in this country, we have no accepted standard of nursing education nor any defined status for the professional nurse. A quarter of a century ago we were in the van of nursing progress; now we are lagging sadly in the rear of our American cousins. It behoves us, therefore, to make every effort to avail ourselves of their invitation to be present at the new century celebrations and take counsel with them, which will be of great mutual benefit."

"I fear it is too much to hope that some of the chairmen of our training schools and members of nursing committees, men who have assumed an immense responsibility in relation to nursing the sick, will attend this congress of nurses, and there read, mark, and learn the trend of professional

nursing, the first principles of which the large majority of them have signally failed to appreciate, much less have they grasped its marvellous and rapid evolution from a purely domestic avocation into a highly skilled profession founded on a firm scientific basis, ever pressing forward, and, in spite of almost insuperable difficulties, keeping well apace with the giant strides of modern scientific medicine. A limited number of women now hold positions of authority on hospital boards, and many more are called upon to deal with nursing matters as poor-law guardians. I hope that the more public spirited of these ladies will make an effort to attend the congress, and there get into touch with the thoughts, desires, and aspirations of trained nurses."

"I feel sure that the nursing congress will prove of the greatest benefit and pleasure to all who attend it, and I would especially urge those women who are interesting themselves in hospital matters, and desire to share in the management of these institutions, to consider the wisdom of educating themselves in the duties involved. Many hospital matrons who cordially indorse the principle of women participating in hospital government regard the practical application of this principle with some apprehension, fearing that they may bring immature knowledge to bear upon business and professional matters. The good management of a hospital depends to a large extent upon the efficiency of its nursing staff, whose relations to the sick are, in their degree, quite as important as those of the medical staff. But the question of efficient nursing organisation is, after all, one which primarily concerns neither the medical profession nor even nurses themselves, but the patients, and it is therefore expedient that the public should from time to time take counsel with the leaders of nursing thought and progress. There is no doubt that those who make the effort to be present on this unique occasion will receive a cordial welcome from the committee convening the congress."

At the annual meeting of the Royal Halifax Infirmary the report made mention that:—

"The new Matron, Miss James, took charge of the Institution at the beginning of the year; the Board cannot speak too highly of the way in which she has carried out her responsible duties."

We are informed that the name of the Army Nursing Reserve Sister, who so sadly met her death by drowning in South Africa, was Miss Emily Stanley Owen, not Minnie, as reported. She was the daughter of the Rev. J. Stanley Owen, of Derby.

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