

## NURSING ECHOES.

\* \* \* *Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

My readers will have noticed that I reprinted last week in these columns a quotation from the *Philanthropist*, criticising a pamphlet recently issued against Registration. The remarks which I wished to make upon the paragraph were, I find, crowded out by the pressure of other matter, so I must make them now. The writer of the paragraph has quietly hit one of the many weak arguments advanced in the *brochure* in question; but, like many others who are not behind the scenes, he is evidently impressed with the melodramatic thunder about "examinations." He will, doubtless, be greatly surprised to hear that it was officially stated by Sir Crichton Browne, at the Mansion House, that the British Nurses' Association has not dreamt of instituting examinations on its own account, so that those who have pretended that such was its object, and then attacked it for this imaginary intention, have thereby merely proved their own malice and want of veracity.

I WOULD refer the *Philanthropist* to the account of the Mansion House Meeting which appeared in these pages on July 25 and August 1, and may assure him that all the attacks which have been made upon the Association have only recoiled thus far upon the opponents themselves, and in many ways have only served to strengthen the Association. Chiefly, for example, by advertising its existence and its objects to hundreds who otherwise might not have heard of them; by leading many to join it who in all probability would not under ordinary circumstances have done so; and by making its friends and supporters work far harder for its success than they would otherwise have done. One thing more I must say in fairness to the Association. It has never to my knowledge taken the slightest official notice of all the attacks which have been made upon it, but has quietly gone on its way, laying deep the foundation for future great success by drawing up schemes which will probably transform the Nursing profession, and meanwhile giving its Members most pleasurable meetings and other advantages.

I HEAR of the recently issued manifesto against Registration on all sides, and am glad to learn that it is doing so much good to the cause it was fondly hoped it might damage. In some places, for example, I am told that a lively interest has been excited in favour of a measure which all

independent people clearly understand may do much good and cannot possibly do any harm. In Nursing circles there is a great deal of curiosity expressed as to when the Register is to be opened. I suppose there must be a great many preliminary arrangements to be made, and in any case I would remind the many correspondents who have written to us on the subject that the B.N.A. has often shown that it does not undertake any scheme without full deliberation, and that whatever it has commenced hitherto it has carried through with complete success.

So we must have a little patience about this Registration, although, personally, I must say I agree with many that the evils are so great, that the sooner the attempt is made to counteract them, the better it will be for everyone. Then, again, as to Midwives. Mr. Editor thinks it will strengthen the hands of the Association very greatly to have taken up the important subject of their Registration, but, on the other hand, believes that it will be a very great and difficult matter to handle successfully. However, I am encouraged by the past successes of the Association to believe that it knows very well what it is about, and, at any rate, no one can deny the calm courage with which it is grappling with such a great national question, in addition to the already large and intricate subject it has so quickly and successfully forced into the "region of practical politics."

I HEAR that Nursing Sister Irving, Army Nursing Staff, who for two years past has occupied the position of Acting Superintendent of Nurses at the Military Hospital at Shorncliffe, has resigned her connection with the service. Miss Irving will leave for India to be married. Nursing Sister Fergusson, from Netley, has taken over the duties of Miss Irving's post.

I SEE in the obituary last week the name of Nurse Sabel as having died of diphtheria in the London Hospital. It is the subject of frequent comment in Nursing circles, the large amount of illness which is currently reported to prevail amongst the workers in this Institution, and, unless more than one of my informants are wrong, this is not the first death among the Nurses which has taken place this year. Perhaps some of my readers, however, can give me accurate information on the point.

It has been asserted that Nurses do not require Convalescent Homes or Holiday Houses, that they are never ill, and that if they are "tired" happy homes are instantly thrown open to welcome them,

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