

We must confess at once that we cannot possibly see the drift of this communication, for our readers will remember that in our issue of September 5 we distinctly stated, "It will be for you (Mr. Barnardo) to correct any statement requiring correction which may be made, or offer any explanation which you may consider consistent with the attitude you have taken up, and to further this *we shall have pleasure in placing at your disposal the requisite space in the columns of the 'Record.'*" We could not possibly have been more emphatic. We now italicise the statement in order that Mr. Barnardo may have it more firmly fixed upon his attention. Therefore, Mr. Barnardo's request, "when you have finished your indictment, allow me as favourable an opportunity to reply with as much space as you have yourself occupied in setting forth what you deem to be a correct statement of the points at issue," has already been fully anticipated.

As regards the suggestion that we "have assumed the position of advocates determined at all costs to do the best for a client," we can afford to dismiss that expression for what it is worth. Mr. Barnardo having had so much of matters legal to deal with of late, no doubt fully appreciates the use of forensic expressions. To be frank with Mr. Barnardo, we would tell him that if he will look back to his replies to our two letters, he will see that they, by their very *ad captandum* nature, prohibit us from taking up that entirely strict neutrality which in the first instance we were fully prepared to do, for they are not plain and straightforward answers to plain and straightforward questions, but merely quibbles.

We have not the slightest doubt whatsoever but that our readers *will* suspend their judgment until the whole facts of this controversy have been set before them; but if, however, by stating that "I may however be allowed to add that I am surprised to find that, in two or three instances where letters have been quoted by you, you have permitted, for very obvious reasons, some slight alterations from the original to be made," Mr. Barnardo wishes to insinuate that we have *altered or tampered with, in any possible way*, either his or Sister Clara's correspondence, and we ask him plainly, is that his meaning? All we can say is that the statement is both impertinent and untrue, and we must either have it withdrawn or proved by Mr. Barnardo before we can permit any further communication of his to appear in our columns; and we would further say that when this is explained, Mr. Barnardo must confine himself to facts, curtail his tendency to prolixity, and conduct his correspondence as a gentleman ought to do, if it is really his wish to state *his* case in full before our readers.

NURSING ECHOES.

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

THE Meeting of the General Council of the B.N.A., which is advertised to take place tomorrow, will be doubtless a very important and interesting one. I see that the agenda is—(1) To receive reports from the Executive Committee; (2) To consider details *re* Registration, *re* winter meetings, and *re* qualifications for membership. Truly, a wide selection of subjects for discussion. Everyone is anxious to know what is to be done in the matter of Registration, for there are many rumours abroad. As regards the winter meetings, again, many are anxious to know the place and date where the *Conversazione* is to be held, and by what process Members are to be selected for admission, for there is I suppose no available place where the three thousand Members or so could be entertained at one time.

As to the "qualifications for membership," I presume these will relate to Nurses applying after the end of this year, because, unless I am mistaken, until the 1st of next January, anyone who had been engaged for three years in Nursing or Midwifery is eligible to make application. I hear upon very good authority that the election of members is steadily being made more restricted, so perhaps some new and more strict regulations are going to be proposed. Many months ago Mr. Editor prophesied that it would become more and more difficult to become a member of the Association as it increased in powers and prestige. Talking of the Association reminds me that I am told that the annual report will shortly be issued to Members, and that it is a most interesting volume.

SOME of the daily papers last week made much fun of a case which occurred in one of the police courts. One of our contemporaries heads its remarks, "A Thorough Nurse," and evidently considers the woman a type of the profession. If Mr. Biron had had the Nursing Register on his desk beside the Medical Register, such a person would probably not have applied to him at all, nor thus made her calling ridiculous in the eyes of the public. The case is reported as follows:— "An elderly woman complained to Mr. Biron that a lady had engaged her services from Oct. 1 for a confinement, and disappointed her—a thing she was not used to. (Laughter.) Mr. Biron: Oh! you go out Nursing? Applicant: Only confinements, and I have had many years' experience, and never been treated like this.

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