

NURSING ECHOES.

** Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN is being greatly missed this year in many places, but Nurses will rejoice to hear that she is reported



to be very much the better for her residence at Wiesbaden, and will unite in wishing her a very Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year. I see that Princess Beatrice took Her Royal Highness's place, and presented last week the medallions and

certificates awarded to the successful members of the local centre of the St. John's Ambulance Association at Windsor.

It is reported from New York that a Nurse in a private Hospital in that city was lately pouring ether from one bottle to another too near a gas-light, when the vapour exploded, and catching fire, caused such severe burns that she died within two days. Nurses have less to do with the giving of anæsthetics in this country than they have amongst our more rapid cousins in the States, and so are less liable to this accident. Still the warning is one well worthy to be remembered.

I HEAR that Miss De Pledge has been elected Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary in place of Miss Mollett. Miss De Pledge, who belongs, I believe, to a well-known North-country family, was trained at St. Bartholomew's, and after obtaining her Certificate, continued to work for some time at the same institution. Some months ago she was appointed Night Superintendent of the Chelsea Infirmary, and her promotion to her present post appears to have taken place with unanimous consent and approval. I am told that Miss Ada Smith, whose appointment as Sister at The Hospital for Women in Soho Square I chronicled some months ago in these columns, has now been appointed Matron of the Bridge-water Infirmary, and will shortly commence the duties of her new post. Both Miss De Pledge and Miss Smith, I see by the B.N.A. Roll, were early Members of the Association, and so still the same curious fact, to which I have often alluded, is repeated again and again.

WHAT can the enemies of the Association say

when, week after week, Committees of Hospitals in every part of the Kingdom are found choosing from scores, or hundreds, of candidates two or three who appear to their unbiassed judgments to be the best, and, finally, when the elected one—if not, indeed, the whole two or three selected ones, as, to our knowledge, has frequently happened of late—proves to be a Member of the B.N.A.? Better, higher testimony to the character of the women who compose the Association—greater evidence of the carefulness with which Members are elected, could hardly be given than by this otherwise inexplicable fact. Talking of the Association reminds me that the managers are once more to be warmly congratulated. Everyone who was present at the *Conversazione* knows what a great success it was, and smiles at the petty attempts of our comic contemporary to minimise it.

BUT the *Lancet* of the 14th inst., in a very sympathetic account which it gave of the ceremony, states something which is especially worth repeating: "It is reported that, by means of paying tickets issued to Members' friends, the large cost of the gathering has been more than covered, a fact which is most significant of the ability with which the affairs of the young Association are being conducted." "And so say all of us." It is difficult to realise the immense amount of work and organisation which must be required to carry through successfully a gathering of a thousand people; but when an Association can give pleasure and entertainment to that great number absolutely at no cost to its funds, it makes one keenly appreciate how successfully it is being managed.

THE winner of the fourteenth Prize Essay Competition, which had for its subject "The best and most complete collection of (alphabetically arranged) terms (from any source) used in Nursing, giving as far as possible their origin and meaning," has, in one of the closest competitions the *Nursing Record* has yet had, been awarded to Miss Mary Sheehy, 39, Great Percy Street, W.C., who will, in due course, receive a book selected by herself, of the value of one guinea, accompanied with the usual certificate. I congratulate this young lady—who, by the way, was trained at Charing Cross Hospital—most heartily upon a well-fought, hardly-won battle.

THE second place was awarded to Miss Ellen Mary Green, and the third place to Miss Helen Dunn, M.B.N.A., whilst "honourable mention" is given to Miss Emily Louisa Symonds and Miss Maude Ingham. The remaining competitors did

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