

river away from the tideway and the sewage contamination.

After glancing at the relation between the cholera outbreaks of 1832, 1849, and 1866, and the water supplied to the districts affected at those times, Mr. Birch said: "From the experience of nearly a quarter of a century since the last serious cholera epidemic, it appears that if by filtration the organic matter in water be kept within limits, which are perfectly practicable at the Thames intakes, as good a water—from the point of view of the Guardians of the Public Health—can be obtained from that river as that supplied from the chalk or from the mountain gathering grounds. Before arriving at this conclusion, I have made a very careful examination of the Registrar-General's returns for the last ten years, and am satisfied that districts drinking Thames water have been at least as free from zymotic diseases of all kinds as those supplied exclusively from the Kentish chalk and the New River, or the city of Glasgow supplied from Loch Katrine."

Dealing with the method employed by the companies to store and purify the water taken from the Thames and Lea, the lecturer stated that the quantity of organic matter in the water delivered to London from these sources varied from one to three and a-half parts per million, but that the average amount of the organic matter is much less than the mean of these extremes, being for the years 1887-88 only one and three-quarter parts in a million, or twelve per cent. less than that in the water supplied to Glasgow from Loch Katrine during the same period.

Coming to the proposal which has frequently been made to supply the whole of London from the chalk, the lecturer stated that in his opinion this would be practically impossible, even if it were proved to be desirable to do so.

After dealing with the questions of temperature, hardness, &c., a passage strongly in support of the constant supply of water, now rapidly gaining ground in London, brought the lecture, which was illustrated with diagrams, to a conclusion.

NURSING ECHOES.

*** *Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

I HEAR that the British Nurses' Association is about to conclude its campaign for this season in the most fitting way, by a great meeting in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House. H.R.H. Princess Christian, it appears, has announced her intention to be present. The Lord Mayor will

take the chair, and many of the leaders of the Medical profession in London have promised to attend and show, once more, their sympathy with the objects of the Association. I am told that the managers of the Association are delighted with the rapidity with which the question of Registration is being forced forward upon public attention. I can quite believe it, for in nearly every paper in the kingdom there has appeared a letter denouncing Registration with such vigour, that thousands who otherwise would never have heard of the subject are aroused to ask what it means. I hear that inquiries are being made to us from all over England asking for information, and in several instances, when this was supplied, keen interest in the work of the Association has been aroused.

ONE can well imagine, therefore, how grateful the managers of the Association are to find that, without the slightest trouble or expense to them, the enemies of Registration are doing more to inculcate its importance on the public in one week than the Association could find opportunities to do in six months! Some people wonder why the Association never makes any answer to these attacks. But now, after quietly allowing all this *furor* and interest to be aroused by endless labour on the part of its adversaries, it seems the Association is about to state its plans at the Mansion House, and so give them world-wide circulation. I hear that early application for tickets to the Secretary is essential, if any of my readers desire to be present upon this interesting occasion.

MEANWHILE, the following letter I see is quietly following several anonymous communications adverse to the Association into many provincial papers all over the kingdom. It will be noticed that it is evidently signed by Miss Wood for herself, and is not an official reply on the part of the Association:—"Sir,—So much misapprehension is abroad concerning the legal Registration of Nurses and the plan of action proposed by the British Nurses' Association, that I ask space in your journal to place the matter before your readers. The legal registration of the members of a profession is no new departure. Doctors, lawyers, soldiers, sailors, and clergymen are all registered, and many trades are now demanding the same system for themselves. It is simply this, the placing of the names of duly qualified persons on a list to be published yearly and offered for sale."

"THE British Nurses' Association, representing the leading Medical men of the kingdom, and a

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)