

it is to end their days in a Workhouse Infirmary, often lonely and desolate, and certainly infusing some of the human element into the red-tape atmosphere of a Poor-law Asylum. Then around to help her are the sweet country sights and sounds, the sun streaming into the Wards as it never can in London, the flowers within and without, the birds singing in an abandonment of joy all the pleasant music of the country life in its peace and restfulness, coming in and mixing with the inside life of patience and sorrow around her; such is the life of a country Infirmary Nurse.

But whether in town or country, to any Nurse who values her profession as an opportunity of helping her fellow-creatures, the Infirmary work offers a sphere full of possibilities. She comes into contact with a despised race who have lost their self-respect, in whose lives there is but little hope, and whose existence must of necessity be one of monotony. If a Nurse ministers to these to the utmost of her ability because they are fellow-creatures, if she recognises the dignity of humanity even in the poor forgotten pauper, if she brings some love and sympathy with her daily work, she has done a higher work than that Hospital Nurse who works only for the *éclat* and excitement of the Hospital life.

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*** Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*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 British Nurses' Association on February 21 was very interesting for several reasons. Miss Foggo-Thomson, who made her first official appearance, was very warmly received, and the paper which she read on "Private Nursing," and which I hear will appear in these columns as soon as possible, met with unanimous approval. In fact it is quite evident that the



new Secretary possesses an amount of literary talent, shrewd common sense, and practical originality, which will, unless I am much mistaken, be of inestimable service to the Association, Judging only from the style and substance of Friday's paper, the Committee of the B.N.A. must be congratulated upon its selection of Miss Thomson to fill the important post of Secretary.

THERE was quite an array of reporters present, and very good notices of the meeting have since

appeared in many of the London and provincial papers. Mr. Pick is one of the most successful chairmen we have had at these meetings, for he managed to elicit quite an active discussion, which went on until 9.30, and if it had not then been perforce closed, I believe others present would have taken part in it. Miss Wood, as usual, spoke strongly and to the point on the evils of untrained women acting as Private Nurses. Miss Homersham quoted several instances which would have been ludicrous had they not been so utterly bad, in which the public suffered from the ignorance of so-called Nurses. Miss Graham and Mr. Pick spoke equally strongly from the standpoint of the Private Nurse, and of the Doctor.

IN proposing a vote of thanks to Miss Thomson for her paper, and to Mr. Pick for his services in the chair, Dr. Bedford Fenwick took the opportunity of announcing that Registration was now at last an accomplished fact. He stated that the Association had appointed a very powerful Registration Board to carry on the work, and that many hundreds of the best Certificated and Trained Nurses in the kingdom had already applied to be Registered. But as everyone of these applications would be separately and critically examined by the Board before Registration was granted, it would of necessity take considerable time before they could all be attended to. He therefore expressed the hope that Nurses would understand and make due allowances for the delay which must elapse before they heard whether they were accepted for Registration or not.

A KIND correspondent sends me the following cutting from the *Manchester Examiner*, of the 15th instant:—

"Trained Sick Nurses are coming to the fore and showing themselves capable of combination. They have just opened a club in Buckingham Street, Strand, which has two hundred members. They are also forming themselves into a mutual association for the supply of Nurses to private cases, Nurses taking their own earnings, and only paying a five per cent. charge to the central office to cover the working expenses. A friend has kindly guaranteed the initial expenses of the society."

"TRAINED Nurses showing themselves capable of combination," when they have an Association comprising one-fourth of their whole number! I should advise our contemporary to reprimand its London correspondent, and also insist upon her supplying its columns with a little news that is true, or a little truth which is new. The club in Buckingham Street, Strand, was "just" opened three or four years ago, but it has not two hundred members yet, nor anything like that number. The latter part of the paragraph is either a very small

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