

## NURSING ECHOES.

\*\*\* Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.

MR. EDITOR asks me to give quotations in this column from a very strongly written little pamphlet which he will criticise this week. It commences thus :



“It is not possible to point to a more remarkable product of the age in which we live than the birth, growth, and vigorous development of professional Nursing. In little more than a quarter of a century it has made such rapid strides, that at this moment more than three thousand skilled and duly trained Nurses have been registered, and will no doubt soon be recognised by a Royal Charter as one of the most useful professions. The ‘service of the poor’ has drawn to its ranks well-educated women, for whom the work has the greatest attraction, and in such numbers that they already wield such influence that the most ridiculous alarm has been inspired in the breasts of the weaker members of the Medical faculty.”

OF course the writer is rather wide of the mark. There are at least twelve thousand Nurses now at work in the United Kingdom, and the numbers given, I presume, refer to the Members of the British Nurses’ Association. Then the “alarm” is very restricted in its extent. Nurses collectively owe their present position largely to the constant advocacy of their calling by Medical men. Our Association owes its foundation and success to the advice and aid of Doctors. And Nurses know very well that it is from the Medical profession they have received most consideration and support, and that it is upon the assistance of individual Medical men that each individual Nurse is dependent. The better trained a Nurse is, the more clearly does she estimate and understand the relative position of herself and the Doctor. It is the arrogance of ignorance which causes disturbance and friction in Nursing, as in every other department of work.

BUT the writer hits the nail on the head several times, and notably so on the last page : “How a Registered Trained Nurse can be such an evil, while an unregistered Nurse is so acceptable, that we constantly hear the Medical men of the Hospitals calling out for more, passes ordinary

comprehension. The action of those protesting is illogical.” The moral of this pamphlet to my mind is that the public has commenced to think the subject out for itself. And although it is wrong to imagine that the Medical profession is opposing Registration, it will probably hammer away until it reaches the true solution of the opposition, which it cannot yet understand. This is that a few persons, who are intensely desirous for their own reasons to maintain the present scandalous abuses, are struggling hard to prevent reform, and by dint of noise are trying to make up for paucity of numbers, and absence of arguments.

THE Lady Nurses’ Training Home, 4, Blackhall Street, Dublin, recently held, I am told, a very interesting *Conversazione* and concert (held at 87, Merrion Square). To Miss Smyth, who established the Home, in particular is much praise due for the great success attending the efforts made, and for the services her friends rendered.

I AM informed that the twenty-first annual meeting of the governors of the National Hospital for Consumption, at Ventnor, was held at the London office, 34, Craven Street, Charing Cross, on February 25th. Mr. Herbert C. Saunders, Q.C., Chairman of the Board of Management, presided, in the unavoidable absence of the President, the Earl of Rosebery, who was presiding at the London County Council meeting. The number of in-patients under treatment had increased to seven hundred and fifty-nine, as compared with seven hundred and thirty-five in the previous year, and resided in nearly every county in the kingdom. The receipts reported amounted to £12,720, which included £3,795 from legacies. In addition to the ordinary expenses of maintenance, £9,350, the sum of £1,893 had been expended in improvements to the heating and ventilation. Regret was expressed at the loss of Mrs. Hamilton, a benefactress who used to defray the Chaplain’s stipend, which will now fall upon the general Hospital funds. The retiring members of the Board were re-elected, and votes of thanks to the Honorary Medical Officers and the Chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

THE *Medical Press and Circular* of Saturday last has an amusing and satirical article upon “How to Choose a Hospital Nurse.” It is too long to quote here in full, but I must give space for this expression :—“The Nursing of sick paupers in a bogside Irish workhouse is not a lofty flight of human aspiration ;” and also this : “Tolerance, goodwill, or the care of the sick poor nowhere ; sectarian bigotry and animosity everywhere.”

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