

is worth more than a great deal of pity, and that is substantial help. And that help has greater advantages for the Members, and is far more honourably obtained, when they know they have contributed in some degree to what may be looked upon as being presented to them. The small payment now asked from medical men may, I think, be fairly objected to on the ground that it is not right we should get good for nothing. The payment of a guinea is small indeed for the privilege of life membership of an Association whose interests are closely bound up with those of the Medical profession. I think it remains for me only to express to you good wishes for those who have taken part in preparing this meeting, and say that if on any subsequent occasion it should be necessary, we shall all be pleased to extend the same welcome to you, and in any case in future promote as far as possible the interests of this important Association. (Loud applause.)

The meeting then concluded.

NURSING ECHOES.

. All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

WE have had quite a shower of letters this week from many who think it very unfair to themselves that the British Nurses' Association has doubled its annual subscription for future Nurse Members. Several naively confess that they would have applied for Membership sooner if they had guessed that this step was in prospect; others complain that they have been entirely misled as to the position of the Association, and had no idea that it had been so successful. Mr. Editor wishes me to give these correspondents one word of warning, to the effect that it is most probable that this will not be the last step the Association will take to make its Membership more select, or it will be strangely unlike similar Associations which have previously succeeded.



It is quite evident that the Association with its Pension Fund, its Benevolent Fund, and its Journal will be much more popular with a large number of Nurses than when it only offered its Members a share in a hard struggle for professional unity and organisation. Already I hear of many who declined to take any part in the latter, who are very anxious to become Members,

and be eligible to take part in the former very definite benefits. I am told that these three schemes will be contemporaneously commenced at the beginning of January next, when it is expected that the first number of the *Quarterly Journal* will be issued.

THE *Globe* last week contained a long annotation upon the recent illness of the Crown Princess of Greece, the daughter of the Empress Frederick of Germany, one fact of which, whether correct or not, points a moral of the highest importance. Speaking of the Crown Princess's confinement our contemporary writes:—"Throughout the critical time the Crown Princess has recently gone through, a German Nurse, who had formerly held the position of housekeeper, was her constant attendant, and it was due to the Empress Frederick's maternal forethought that this experienced chaperone was smuggled into the Crown Princess's suite 'unbeknown' to her fellow-servitors, who were kept in wholesome ignorance of the *sage femme* proficiencies of the pseudo-housekeeper. The prerogatives of Dr. Hatzisko were thus usurped, and although the learned *accoucheur* had, during a recent visit to Vienna, devoted his energies, in anticipation of the auspicious event, to the clinical lying-in department, he had professionally to experience the mortification of being ousted, and to abide the time in an adjacent chamber, where he was subsequently called upon to sign the bulletin."

I CAN hardly imagine that the story can be true. If a Midwife was preferred by the Princess or the Empress, no one else could raise any objection. But to call in the aid of a Physician and then to supersede him by a "pseudo-housekeeper" would be so extraordinary a proceeding upon every ground that it is scarcely credible. And that such a story should be gravely told in such a well-informed paper as the *Globe* is a keen commentary upon the position into which a small clique of busy-bodies have lately striven to drag Midwives, in direct antagonism to the medical profession. Perhaps my readers do not know that the Bill brought forward last February to provide for the Registration of Midwives has terminated its rocketlike progress in the manner typical of those fireworks. The story of its career is highly instructive. A gentleman who is famishing for notoriety, having ignominiously failed in persuading Nurses to enrol themselves under his banner, took up the Midwives. And their self-appointed leaders, not having the same discrimination as Nurses, and having apparently no confidence in themselves, or their cause, made the fatal mistake of accepting unprofessional guidance and dictation in a purely professional matter.

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