

NURSING ECHOES.

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THERE is much interest felt throughout the Hospitals in the Midlands about the annual meeting of the British Nurses' Association, which takes place to-morrow (Friday) in Birmingham. It is not probable that many will be able to go from London or the south, but there is such a considerable number of Members in central England that



a very large and successful gathering may be safely predicted. And after all the Annual Meeting is the provincial gathering, while the *Conver-sazione* is more especially the metropolitan one. I see that the programme commences very sensibly with a substantial dinner, at 12.30, to be held in the Midland Institute. Then comes the Annual Meeting, at 1.45, in the Midland Eye Hospital, when the chair will be taken by Dr. Wade, the President of the British Medical Association, a high but well-deserved compliment to the sister Association. The agenda includes a proposal to change the Bye-laws relating to the annual subscription of Nurse Members, election of a General Council for 1890-91, and various formal reports.

THEN after the meeting there will be an excursion, I understand, to Warwick Castle, going by train to Warwick, and there visting the historic home of the great English "king-maker." I hear that everyone in Birmingham is engaged in dispensing hospitality this week to the British Medical Association, which is also holding its annual session there, or that many have stated that they would have gladly offered to entertain the Nurses, as Town and Gown vied with each other in doing last year in Cambridge. If I might venture to make a suggestion to the Association, I would point out that it would be quite as easy to settle upon the place of meeting twelve months in advance, as only three months before the event. The British Association, the British Medical Association, and many others always do so, and it has the great advantage of arousing local interest in the matter in plenty of time to stimulate local exhibitions of hospitality. Of course I quite understand that this has not been possible to our Association hitherto, and its leaders must have had every moment occupied in carrying through

so successfully the great work in which they have been engaged for the last year.

THE report of the last General Council Meeting, which, I believe, appears in another column this week, supplies several important pieces of evidence as to the success of the Association. Everyone will recognise the importance and significance of the proposed increase in the Nurse-Members' subscriptions, and the diminution in that asked from Doctors. The General Council evidently recognises—what Mr. Editor foretold would come to pass, in these columns, nearly two years ago—that the time has arrived when those who desire to become Members of their professional Association, now that it is fully and firmly established, must pay more for the privilege than those were required to do who came forward to bear the burden and heat of its establishment. If the Annual Meeting to-morrow endorses this view, all future Nurse-Members will be required to pay five shillings annual subscription, or a life subscription of two guineas; while those already elected will continue only to pay half-a-crown a year for the same advantages. As Sir James Crichton Browne observed, the principle is exactly the same as that invariably pursued in clubs and other societies, which commence by electing a certain number of foundation members, either without an entrance fee, or at a smaller subscription than is subsequently charged to those who join after success has been achieved.

ONE of my correspondents writes to complain that last year it was decided to raise the subscription after four thousand members had joined, whereas now it is proposed to be done before three thousand are enrolled. To which the obvious answer is, that the Association evidently has succeeded more rapidly than was anticipated, or the General Council would not be taking such a momentous action. Because I must again point out that Mr. Editor long ago predicted that the time would come when the Nurses' Association, like every one of its predecessors, would feel itself strong enough not to need an unlimited number of members, and then we should see it aiming at making its membership more and more difficult to obtain, and therefore more and more of an honour to those who gained it. Rumour says that those who are now being elected are the very pick of the profession, and it is quite evident that the process of selection is being made more and more restricted as time goes on.

THIS, by-the-bye, will explain to several correspondents why I never now advise Nurses to join the Association, as in its early days I so frequently

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