

and other business. This looks very official indeed; but there is a rumour, though I cannot give it on authority, that H.R.H. Princess Christian will be present, and that the proceedings are expected to be very interesting. I wonder whether anyone will take the suggestion which I made some months ago, to propose the establishment of a Badge for Members. The Executive Committee everyone admits has done, and is doing, a great work for Nurses, and it probably feels that its valuable time can be better employed than in considering a piece of dress decoration.

I MIGHT go further and surmise that probably the Members, looking at the list of distinguished ladies and gentlemen who form the Committee, do not wish to add to the work on their account in which it is already engaged. So that perhaps the Committee has never been approached on the subject of a badge. I feel sure, however, that if it knew the keen feeling which exists amongst Nurses on the subject, it would give the matter full consideration. I should like to show the piles of letters which we have received upon the subject from the Colonies, as well as from all parts of England, Ireland and Scotland. Mr. Editor recently proposed that these advocates should take a first practical step, and send him drawings of what they would propose as a badge. From well-known Matrons, Sisters, Nurses and Midwives, and even from one doctor, sketches have come pouring in.

My own impression from all this is that the Association would be greatly benefited by the institution of a pretty badge for members. I entirely disapprove of the spirit, and disagree with the statement, but it is extraordinary the frequency with which our correspondents say, "Our friends won't join the Association because they think they get nothing to show for it." But human nature is human nature; and if a badge would please these members, I can see no reason why they should not have one. So with every good wish for the welfare of the Association, and with much respect for the General Council, I sincerely hope one of its number will take up this question, and obtain at least a discussion upon it.

MANY of my readers will regret to hear that Miss Isla Stewart, Matron to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, is suffering from diphtheria, doubtless contracted from personally superintending the nursing of some of the Nurses who have also been suffering with this disease, and her great anxiety concerning them. It must, however, be highly gratifying to her and her able helpers, and a proof of the extreme care and good nursing

bestowed upon the Nurses when ill at St. Bartholomew's, that during this most unhealthy season no case of illness has proved fatal, and that only one death has occurred amongst the Nursing Staff during the last seven years.

MANY old friends will be glad to hear that it is probable that Miss Mollett will shortly return from South Africa, where I fear she has found the work far from satisfactory, but where she has won golden opinions for the practical way in which "she set to and roughed it," doing with a will all that her hands found to do. More profitable, I should say, than writing slangy epistles to penny journals, after the custom of one of the Nurses who accompanied her.

As her prize in the twenty-first Prize Essay Competition, Mrs. J. G. Taylor, the Matron of the Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, Hull, has selected "Essays in Aid of Formation of Character," "How to Live Long," "Kingsley's Children of Westminster Abbey," "Lady Silverdale's Sweetheart," "Gray's Elegy," and "Keats' Eve of St. Agnes," a very choice and select guinea's worth of books. Nurses should most certainly avail themselves of the opportunity offered to them of competing in the Post Card Examinations, the Prize Essay Competitions, &c., from time to time given in the *Nursing Record*.

WHILST Nurse Woodford has chosen "The Care of the Sick," by Dr. T. L. Billroth, as her prize in the Post Card Examination Series; and Nurse Annie Robinson has selected for her prize "Life and Works of Shakespeare." Both of these are charming books.

THE prize in the ninth Post Card Examination, as per results given in this week's issue, has been awarded to Sister H. King, who has my heartiest congratulations.

I HAVE just received the second year's report of the "Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, Scottish Branch," for providing trained Nurses for the sick poor in their own homes. I regret exceedingly that the great pressure upon space prevents my dealing with the matter as fully as it in reality deserves. The *Scottish Leader* of December 16 contains a complete account of the annual meeting, with an address given by Lord Reay. Her Majesty, in consequence of the death of the Countess of Rosebery, has been pleased to appoint Her Royal Highness Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) as President of the Scottish Council, for three years from January 1st, 1891.

S. G.

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