

NURSING ECHOES.

Owing to the increase of the work and the difficulty of travelling, the Sussex County Nursing Association, which formerly included affiliated districts from all parts of Sussex, is now dividing into two. One Association, in co-operation with the West Sussex Benefit Nursing Association, will include districts in the administrative County of West Sussex, and be known as the West Sussex County Nursing Association; and the other will only include districts in East Sussex, and be known as the East Sussex County Nursing Association. The address of East Sussex County Superintendent is Miss Randolph, 14, Bradford Road, Lewes. The address of West Sussex County Superintendent is Miss M. Smith, 2, North Walls, Chichester.

"A Reader of Many Years" writes:—"May I suggest that THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING should be re-named the 'American Journal of Nursing No. 2'? English nurses and English ways of doing things seem to be of no account in comparison with American and Canadian methods. It's a bit galling to English nurses."

No, kind reader, we cannot accept the suggestion, as the great American nurse and writer has put it on record in her "History of Nursing" that "THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING rapidly came to be the foremost Nursing Journal of the world, and is the most complete record in existence of nursing affairs and progress in all countries." We prefer to be first.

But we do regret that "A Reader of Many Years" has failed to appreciate the spirit and teaching of the Journal. We bow to no one in our admiration of English nurses in their devoted practical work, but we claim, and shall continue to claim, for them the same highly organized theoretical teaching the American nurses have won for themselves, and to attempt to rouse a keen spirit of professional responsibility in English nurses, of which they have shown a lamentable lack. We were the first to own a professional nursing journal; compare its treatment with that of *The American Journal of Nursing*. Whilst a few ardent spirits have for a quarter of a century been left to work and pay for a professional voice in the Press, American nurses have worked, and paid, and now own their own journal. They do not permit hospital governors to run so-called nursing journals, edited by the laity, and exploit their profession—they earn and benefit by the profits themselves!

Again, we were the first to have a National Association of Nurses—the British Nurses' Association. We took the lead in demanding State Organization of Nursing. What have the majority of English nurses done to earn this privilege? Very little. They have either not the energy or courage to make good. Our Registration Bill still hangs fire. Turn to the American Nurses. Their National Association is now 30,000 strong, and they have, through organized co-operation, had 46 Nurses' Bills passed by the various State Legislatures in the past 18 years.

Their Matrons have come out and given them a magnificent lead: they are nurses first, and hospital officials second.

What about the attitude of the Matrons of large hospitals in England? With a very few distinguished exceptions they have opposed, and urged their nurses to oppose, every organized effort (presumably at the dictation of their Committees) for the organization of the Nursing Profession by the State. They are hospital officials first, and nurses a very poor second.

These are facts. What do they teach us? Frankly, that English Nurses must show a finer and more unselfish spirit if they are to rank with their American colleagues. Now "Reader of Many Years," to what independent Nurses' Society do you belong? What are you doing to place your profession on a higher educational and ethical level, so that it may rank as it should do, as the finest women's profession? Don't you forget to let us know. Appreciate what Nurses of other nations have done, emulate their ambitions and courage. You will find nothing galling in this generous attitude towards their success.

A missionary nurse writes from India:—"Will you allow me to say how pleased I am that you publish news of the Nurses' Missionary League? The field out here is limitless, and especially in the training of Indian girls as nurses there is scope for the best talents.

Miss G— introduced me to your Journal; you will be sorry to hear we lost her last year from cholera. She had a great admiration for the work you are doing for State Registration, and the last thing we did together was to sign the Petition to the Prime Minister on the cover of the Journal. The charity fund for nurses, organized with so much publicity, makes very painful reading. No nurse with any spirit would take a penny from such a fund."

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