

NURSING ECHOES.

We hear there is to be a great gathering of the clans at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., on January 28th, when Miss Beatrice Cutler will be "At Home" from 4 to 6, to bid farewell for a season to her many friends, before starting off on her travels to South Africa. Miss Cutler is greatly looking forward to a visit to this wonderful country, and may be away a year. No doubt she will meet some of the distinguished nurses who form the South African Trained Nurses' Association—if so, we hope she will interest them in the International Council of Nurses, which will be all the more representative when their influential Association is affiliated to it.

A subscriber writes:—

"I understand that Nurses who have applied for information with regard to the circular and card sent out by the Nurses' Co-operation, 22, Langham Street, W., to which you alluded last week, have been told that those who subscribe £1 rs. will be allowed to reside in the Howard de Walden Home, and those who do not will have to go elsewhere. I think this must be a misunderstanding on the part of the Nurses.

The Home was built partly out of the money subscribed by the Nurses' Co-operation, and it has often been found necessary to subsidise it from the Co-operation funds. I do not see, therefore, that it will be possible for the Committee of Management to make "fish of one and flesh of another" of the members of the Nursing Staff. It would seem that all or none must participate in this benefit.

The Howard de Walden Home and Club was built some twenty years ago, on ground kindly procured for the Nurses' Co-operation by Lady Howard de Walden. She defrayed half of the cost of the building, and the Co-operation, having first obtained permission from the Nurses, subscribed some £7,500 to complete the amount required. I understand that after a certain number of years, like other leasehold property, the Club reverts to the Howard de Walden Estate.

A long time ago, I heard of dissatisfaction with regard to the management. About 1916 it was very much in debt, and the Nurses were asked to subscribe £500 out of their own pockets to clear it. When it was first built, an agreement was made between the Nurses' Co-operation (presumably without asking the

nurses' permission this time) and the Howard de Walden Trustees, by which *no member of the Nursing Staff* could sit on the Home Committee. This seems to be the foundation of all the trouble.

A couple of years ago several Nurses' Representatives approached the Howard de Walden Trustees and asked them to alter this agreement. They were successful in their endeavour, and the Chairman of the Committee of Management of the Nurses' Co-operation announced at the general meeting in 1919 that the Trustees had consented to this alteration. He added, and I am very much inclined to agree with him, that it would do the nurses no harm to know some of the difficulties of running the Club. The Representatives, therefore, obtained a very definite benefit for the Members of the Staff.

A small clique (perhaps more concerned to stand well with the Authorities themselves than to benefit their colleagues), without consulting the majority, presented a petition to the Committee of Management, asking them *not* to appoint any Nurses on the Home Committee, as they were quite content with things as they were. By the action of a few, the benefit that had been obtained, at great cost, by their more wide-minded colleagues was done away with.

I hear that the Club is again in debt, but it would seem very unlikely that any Nurses' Representatives will be found sufficiently disinterested to bring the matter forward again, at the risk of ruining their own careers.

The majority of the Nurses not only sold their colleagues, but also their own birthright, and must 'grin and bear it!'

The aim of the Nurses' Co-operation is a most laudable one—to procure for the nurses full remuneration for their work. But *work*, like everything else in these days of high taxation, *costs more to procure*. Rent, rates, taxes, labour, light, fire, telephone, stamps, and every other item of administration, has almost doubled since the war, and the cost of running Clubs for working women with any degree of comfort and refinement is enormous. The only way to manage business satisfactorily is to *make* those who benefit help to manage their own affairs. That is, if they are to be taught that personal responsibility is the duty of every self-supporting person. The other alternative—excluding the workers from an intelligent knowledge of professional or industrial economics concerning their own labour—is to invite the inevitable dissatisfaction and resentment of ignorance; and

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