

NURSING ECHOES.

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 All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

I AM asked to state, here, that the Meeting of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, will be held tomorrow (Friday), at 5 p.m., at 20, Hanover Square. The agenda is: (1) To receive and consider reports from the Executive Committee: (2) To elect an Executive Committee for the coming year: (3) To consider a scheme for a Sickness Fund for Nurses; and other business. There ought to be a large meeting with so interesting and important a programme.



I AM glad to hear that Miss Eleanor F. L. Macdonald has been appointed Matron of the Devezes Hospital. I see in that most invaluable work, the "Register of Trained Nurses," that Miss Macdonald was trained under St. John's House, at King's College and Charing Cross Hospitals, from 1880 to 1882, that she then worked for a year at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and was in 1883, appointed Matron of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, a post which she has held ever since. Miss Macdonald is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a Registered Nurse.

MISS MARGARET BREAY, a lady of varied Nursing experience, has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Metropolitan Free Hospital, in the Kingsland Road, Sister Dorothea, the Superior of the St. John's Sisters, finding it impossible to superintend the Nursing of this busy Hospital in connection with her numerous other duties. Miss Breay was certificated at St. Bartholomew's in 1888, obtained the diploma of the L.O.S., and has since been in charge of the Maternity Home in connection with the St. John's Sisterhood at Battersea. She is a member of the R.B.N.A., and a Registered Nurse.

MISS JOHNSTONE, who at present holds the post of Night Superintendent at Charing Cross, has been appointed Matron to the Boston Hospital, Lincolnshire.

A customer writes:—"Your goods are a marvel of cheapness, and conclusively prove the great advantage of dealing direct with real manufacturers." Send for patterns to HARDMAN AND SONS, Fernhill Mills, Bury, manufacturers of Blankets (stamped with name or monogram for hospitals and homes), Serges, Tennis and Yachting Flannels, &c. Specially low summer prices for Blankets. Please name paper.

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COMPLAINTS reach me from Matrons in the country that it is almost impossible to get "suitable Sisters." Considering the great number of Nurses our great Hospitals certificate yearly, this complaint should not arise. Is it that more and more Nurses undertake private Nursing on their own account, or that, like the world in general, they "object to leave London?"

MISS MARY M. BELCHER is evidently one of those ladies who are deeply imbued with the conviction that Nurses have only to pay one-half of their earnings as premiums to the National Pension Fund for Hospital officials, to know a foretaste of Paradise. *Chacun à son goût.* I do not wish to undermine her faith, but must gently remonstrate with her, nevertheless, for her untrue, and therefore unjustifiable, attack upon the Royal British Nurses' Association in last week's *Woman's Herald*. I must warn Miss Belcher that "practice is better than precept." This lady poses as an energetic and disinterested advocate of Nurses. She is a subscriber to the Pension Fund, a worker at Co-operation. She has indited a long and able letter to this Journal—which, however, was too long for insertion—brimful of the milk of human kindness, advocating silence, endurance, and patience, on the part of the rank and file in their attitude towards the powers that be; and at the same time, with the inconsistency for which the fair sex are famous, pens in a contemporary a malicious and totally uncalled-for statement concerning an influential Association of Nurses whose only fault is, as far as I can learn, that it has not used its influence and authority to coerce its Members to place their money in a certain assurance office. Nothing could be more able than the comment of Miss Miriam Ridley, Matron to the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, which I will quote in full:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *Woman's Herald*.

Madam,—As a Member of the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, I regret to see in this week's *Woman's Herald* a statement, made by Miss Mary M. Belcher, concerning the Royal British Nurses' Association, with regard to the Royal National Pension Fund, and think the least Miss Belcher can do is to *prove* the statement she has made.

The attitude of the Royal British Nurses' Association towards the Pension Fund has at all times been one of dignified neutrality, and if the Members have chosen to invest their money in it, they have done so.

We, as a professional Association, claim the privilege for every Trained Nurse to judge for herself in these matters, and feel sure any coercion on the part of our Executive Committee would be unjustifiable and at once resented by intelligent Members.

Personally, at the request of the Chairman of the Committee of this Hospital, I placed the regulations of the Pension Fund individually before each Nurse on our Staff, and left it to her own judgment whether she would join it or not.—I am, Madam, faithfully yours,
MIRIAM RIDLEY.

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