

Nursing Echoes.

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 All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS CHRISTIAN came to London on Thursday last, and presided over the meeting of the Ladies' Committee of the Chicago Exhibition, at 53, Berners Street, the offices of the National Health Society. I am told that the majority of the members were present, and that a slight sketch of the scheme which each one will represent was read. The subjects are to be represented by Exhibits and in Congress.



EXHIBITS.

1. Needlework: Embroidery, Ecclesiastical and otherwise.
2. Lace.
3. Handicrafts (as far as they are entirely women's work).
4. Nursing: Apparatus, &c.
5. Art.
6. Loan Collection of Ancient Work by Women.

CONGRESS.

[By papers and discussions, photographs, pamphlets.]

1. Philanthropic and Social Work performed by women.
2. Education.
3. Domestic Economy.

The ladies were asked to undertake the different departments, forming working sub-committees at their own discretion, and to report progress to the Executive Committee at stated intervals.

The Nurses' Journal still maintains its high tone and literary excellence. I should advise my readers to obtain a copy of the February number. The Editorial is a good *resumé* of the case of the Royal British Nurses' Association. The original articles are two papers read before the Association—one, by Miss HEWLETT, on "Indian Nursing," and the other by Dr. HARRIS, Medical Superintendent of St. Saviour's Infirmary, Dulwich, on "Infirmary Nursing." The ordinary and special meetings of the General Council are fully reported. Then, in parallel columns, are printed the following objections, which were made to the Board of Trade against the issue of its licence to the Association, and the replies of the Association thereto. These are so important, that I gladly give them in full:—

OBJECTIONS.

1. "That a self-appointed Association, such as the British Nurses' Association, is not a fitting or competent authority to determine, in the interest either of the Nursing profession or of the general public, who should be put on the Register, or who shall be excluded from it."

2. "That no written or oral examination of Nurses in the technical details of their duties can possibly lead to any approximate estimate of their real fitness and competence as Nurses, and least of all an examination conducted apart from Hospitals, and by persons not specially qualified, for a Nurse's qualifications depend mainly on practical experience, or natural gifts and moral qualities, which a mere examination, however well conducted, can never adequately test."

3. "That the effect of the proposed Register of Nurses, by granting certificates of competency professing to be authoritative, while being necessarily imperfect and untrustworthy, would be to mislead instead of guiding both the public and medical practitioners, and to lower the standard of Nursing by placing numbers of insufficiently trained and inferior Nurses on the same level as their highly-trained and thoroughly competent sisters."

4. "That the authorities of the Nurse-training Schools are alone in a position, from their experience and special knowledge, and from their intimate acquaintance with the individual Nurses who have been trained under

REPLIES.

1. The Association includes the Matrons of more than 150 important Hospitals in Great Britain and Ireland, of many of the largest Nurse-Training Institutions in the Metropolis and the Provinces, and a considerable number of the leading members of the medical profession, in addition to nearly 3,000 Trained Nurses. Such a body may fairly claim to be both "fitting" and "competent" to determine what persons have received sufficient Hospital training to be enrolled in a list of Trained Nurses.

2. All these statements are irrelevant, inasmuch as the Royal British Nurses' Association does not hold, never has held, and does not propose to hold "written or oral examinations of Nurses in the technical details of their duties." It only requires, in the case of each candidate for membership or registration, satisfactory testimonials of "practical experience, natural gifts, and moral qualities" from those who alone are competent to give them, namely, the Hospital authorities who have been responsible for the Nurse's training, and the medical men under whom she has subsequently worked.

3. It is submitted that these assertions are inaccurate, as the Association does not "grant certificates of competency" at all. The Register cannot mislead either the public or the profession, as it merely shows the duration and the places of each Nurse's training. It does not place all or any on the same level; but leaves each Nurse to stand on the merits of her specified education.

4. The bearing of these statements upon the question at issue is not manifest; inasmuch as the indicated evidence is precisely that which is demanded by the Registration Board, and is in all cases held to be indis-

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