

Nursing Echoes.

\*.\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

I AM glad to hear the Annual Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, held at Brighton on the 21st inst., was such a grand success; the absence of the beloved President, Princess Christian, being the only shadow, on a most bright day. One member has sent a long letter to this Journal, which will be inserted, next week—owing to the facts, that a full report of this meeting appears in another column this week, and that space is limited.



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THE resignation of Sir SYDNEY WATERLOW, Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, will be formally accepted to-day, and I feel sure it will be with heart-felt sorrow that he will sever his official connection with this grand old Hospital. Sir TREVOR LAWRENCE, son of the celebrated Surgeon of that name, will be elected in his stead.

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MRS. SHEPPERD, Matron of the Kettlewell Convalescent Home at Swanley—in connection with St. Bartholomew's—has sent in her resignation, and been awarded a pension of £100 a year. I hear there is likely to be sharp competition for her vacated position, as the post is a most desirable one—the salary being £120 per annum, with everything found. It is to be hoped that a Nurse certificated at "Barts" will gain the prize.

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THE Governors of this Hospital have also awarded a pension of £78 per annum to the Sister of Magdalen Ward, who is retiring after 34 years' service. When one contrasts these awards with the beggarly pittance to which members of the so-called Royal National Pension Fund are entitled—after paying the greater part of their salaries in premiums for the best years of their lives—one cannot help congratulating the Governors and Sisters of St. Bartholomew's upon the mutual confidence and appreciation of good service—and one is led to hope that other Hospitals will go and do likewise.

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I CULL the enclosed from the *Daily Graphic* of the 23rd inst. :—

"A conference of those interested in the management of hospitals and dispensaries, called by Lord Sandhurst, was held yesterday afternoon at Spencer House, to consider the con-

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clusion arrived at by the Lords' Committee on Metropolitan Hospitals. This was that a Central Board should be created, and be granted a charter to entitle it to receive endowments, legacies, bequests, and contributions for distribution to medical charities, and to meet its own necessary expenses. This was the point of the third report of the Select Committee of the Lords, which has been sitting, under the chairmanship of Lord Sandhurst, for upwards of two years, 'to consider the evidence taken with regard to all hospitals and provident and other public dispensaries and charitable institutions within the metropolitan area.' The Lord Mayor occupied the chair. The Lord Mayor said such a board would be very well able to consider weak points which might arise in the working of any hospital, and by-and-by, perhaps, exercise some influence in bringing about changes which were desirable. He was sure that such a board would render unnecessary any application for State or municipal interference in return for assistance rendered by them to hospitals. One result, he was sure, would be to increase public confidence in the management of the metropolitan hospitals. (Applause.)—Lord Sandhurst said the object of the conference was to appoint a committee without any reference to politics, by whom the suggestions made in the report of the Lords' Committee might be threshed out, and a decision arrived at as to whether the plan laid down in the Lords' report was the best, or to suggest some other plan having the same object in view. They were all well aware how difficult it was to maintain the existing hospitals. How often was it represented to such of them as sat on hospital boards, as he did, that certain beds must be closed for lack of funds, while other hospitals were occasionally strained to pay satisfactory wages to their servants. These things would, he was sure, be very often prevented by a system of co-operation carried out by a central body. He moved, 'That a committee of this conference be appointed to take into consideration the conclusions arrived at by the Lords' Committee on Metropolitan Hospitals, and to report as to the composition and duties of the proposed Voluntary Central Board, or such other scheme as may be arrived at, after due deliberation.' (Hear, hear.)—Sir Rutherford Alcock seconded the motion. Sir Douglas Galton suggested that the resolution should stop at the words 'Metropolitan Hospitals.' He thought that at first the committee should be confined to the consideration of the question whether or not such a central authority should be constituted.—Mr. H. W. Hunt seconded the suggestion of Sir Douglas Galton.—Sir S. Waterlow, as chairman of the committee which distributed the Sunday collections, was of opinion that the enquiry of the committee in the first instance should be limited to the query as to the extent to which it was desirable to form and constitute a central board, and as to the powers given to such a board. (Applause.)—Lord Sandhurst adopted the suggestion of Sir Douglas Galton, and the resolution was passed in that form."

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I HEAR that several important and well endowed Metropolitan Hospitals may strongly oppose the formation of a Central Board. They say that they are not at all desirous to be taught how to manage their affairs.

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I HEAR that it is proposed to hold a Nursing Congress at Chicago, next year, at which numerous papers on Nursing subjects, written by experts, will be read in addition to those already announced. Mrs. CATHERINE LOCH, Superintendent Sister in

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)