

NURSING ECHOES.

* * SPECIAL NOTICE.—*To those of our friends—in districts not already arranged for, whether at home or abroad—who will agree to send us regularly (reaching the office not later than Monday morning, first post) original notes or items of Nursing news, or matters of importance occurring in their districts, we shall be pleased to send in exchange free copies of the Nursing Record every Thursday, and also the binding case for each volume as it appears.*

* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

I AM asked to call attention in this column to the fact that the quarterly meeting of the General



Council of the British Nurses' Association will be held to-morrow, Friday, at five p.m., at 20, Hanover Square. The agenda, I see, includes the consideration of reports from the Executive Committee; the consideration, and if approved the passing, of the

rules for Pension and Benevolent Funds; the annual financial statement; and the consideration of, and decision upon, certain proposals to effect changes in the bye-laws, and other business—as usual, a lengthy and important programme of work.

* * *

THERE was a large and influential gathering at Devonshire House, on June 26, to draw public attention to the new scheme for founding a Convalescent and Holiday Fund for Nurses. The Bishop of Peterborough proposed, and Sir Crichton Browne seconded the first resolution, which pledged the meeting to support the scheme. Mr. Edgar Willett proposed, and Lady Audrey Buller seconded a vote of thanks to the Duke of Devonshire for his hospitality, and Sir Spencer Wells, in the regretted absence of Lord Harrington, proposed a vote of thanks to Princess Christian for taking the chair, all the resolutions, it is needless to say, being carried by acclamation.

* * *

A LARGER and still more practical meeting was held for the same object, on July 2, at Mr. F. D. Mocatta's house, when "our Princess" again showed her interest in Nurses, by once more taking the chair. I say "more practical," because one of the speakers so described it when announcing that those present had promised nearly £200. I hear that one of the Committee has most generously advanced the money to buy and furnish the Home at once, so that the scheme

may be as speedily as possible placed in working order. I hope Nurses will do something themselves to help forward the establishment of the Fund which is so greatly for their benefit.

* * *

THE whole scheme is clearly and eloquently described in a letter which appeared last week in nearly all the London papers from Princess Christian, and which was as follows:—

"It is well-known that skilled Nursing has within the last few years made great strides in efficiency and usefulness. But it is not generally realised that the work has coincidentally become so arduous and so responsible, so trying both to body and mind, that it is very common for Nurses to break down in health, though it needs no argument to prove that it is essential to the sick that their attendants should be healthy and strong. Consequently any measure which tends to improve the health of Nurses, to render them more fit for their work, or to make them less prone to suffer from its efficient performance, is surely deserving of public sympathy and support.

"In response to a widely-expressed wish, a committee has been formed to found and carry on a Convalescent and Holiday Fund for Nurses, to give them opportunities for that change of air and scene, and complete rest of mind and body which are universally recommended to preserve or restore health. The Duke of Abercorn and Mr. Francis Jeune, Q.C., have most kindly consented to be trustees, and Mr. Alderman Savory to be our treasurer. It is proposed to open a seaside home, to which Private Nurses could go for a few days' rest when they require it. At present, however overtaxed they may be by a prolonged attendance upon a serious case, they are often obliged to go straight from one, to watch over another patient, and so work on until their regular holiday comes, or their health or strength gives way. Most Nurses can save sufficient to pay for their annual holiday, but very few can afford a short rest now and then, which, we contend, would enable many to work with less detriment to their own health, and therefore with greater benefit to their patients. Many Nurses, again, when convalescent from illness, have nowhere to go, for invalids are not always welcome guests. Many others can never obtain the advantage of a seaside visit by reason of the incidental expense. All these would benefit by the proposed Home, where it is intended that each Nurse should pay about ten or twelve shillings a week. But another object of the fund is to give grants to enable Nurses working beyond easy reach of the Home to obtain similar advantages at equally small cost to themselves, because to most of them, earning only from £20 to £25 a year, the expense of a rest makes it prohibitive.

"The scheme is supported by many well-known Hospital Matrons and Nurses, and has been eloquently advocated by Sir James Paget and the Bishop of Ripon. We can now buy and furnish a most suitable freehold house at Brighton for £3,500. We wish to obtain an assured income from invested donations or annual subscriptions of at least £500 a year, to make the scheme successful. In view of the proverbial magnificence of English benevolence, I cannot believe that for so worthy an object assistance will be asked in vain. Nurses spend their lives in tending us in sickness or in suffering. Surely they deserve all the help we can give them in return. Any further information can be obtained from, and all donations and annual subscriptions will be gratefully received by, the hon. secretary, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W. HELENA.

Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, June 25, 1890."

* * *

THE Sanitary Institute reports that at an Examination for Inspectors of Nuisances, held at

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)