

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*** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*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 mention here that the meeting of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association will be held to-morrow (Friday), at 5 p.m., at 20, Hanover Square, when the Agenda will be (1) To receive Reports from the Executive Committee. (2) To consider the Regulations for the Badge of Membership. (3) To consider new schemes. And other business.



A VERY large number of provincial Nurses will be glad to know that the Badge will soon be an accomplished fact, and there is much curiosity felt as to the design which has been chosen. This journal can claim to have taken some part in bringing the question forward, and the result of the poll of members on the subject shows that our correspondents represented a very widespread wish for the adoption of the measure. What the new schemes will be which the Association now proposes to undertake, it will also be very interesting to learn. The mere fact, however, that new schemes are to be proposed, recalls that the long programme which was adopted only three years ago, has been completely and successfully accomplished, besides various other subsidiary schemes, such as the Badge, for example, which have also been carried into effect, during the same short period.

THE following is the Address which was presented to Her Royal Highness Princess Christian by the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, with the beautiful diamond star, the Silver Wedding gift of the members:—

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,—

"We are deputed on behalf of some hundreds of Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association to offer to your Royal Highness, on the occasion of your Silver Wedding, a small memento of the heartfelt gratitude and deep respect entertained for your Royal Highness by Trained Nurses in every part of the British Empire. And in the light of that signification, and not in that of its mere intrinsic worth, we feel confident that you will be graciously pleased to regard this gift.

"The profession of Nursing is passing through a stage of development through which every other skilled calling, in every age and in every country, has in its turn been compelled to pass—the process of union, organisation, and reform. In many instances these results have been hastily, and with many imperfections, brought about by the outside

pressure of public opinion. In the case of Nurses, the urgent need for improvements has been recognised by themselves and by medical men: and the establishment of the Royal British Nurses' Association was the outcome of the feeling thus aroused. In three years, the Association has achieved a measure of success and usefulness hitherto unprecedented amongst professional societies, and although much of this is due to the strong assistance and shrewd advice of its medical members, it is universally acknowledged that in a still greater degree the advance of the Association must be ascribed to the steadfast support and wise counsels rendered to it by your Royal Highness. Every year, thus far, has found the Association stronger, and its principles of protection for the sick, and justice for Nurses, more widely adopted. Every year, in the future, will doubtless see a diminished opposition to the common-sense and simple programme which it advocates. But the Association has had to bear the antagonism which all attempts at reform in this country seem to engender, and more than once it has been checked and hindered in its work. Through doubts and difficulties within, and many discouragements without, your Royal Highness has led the Association steadfastly and steadily forward. And the importance of this is not limited to these Islands, nor even to the British Empire, because Nurses in all parts of the world are carefully watching the progress of our work, and our success means imitation everywhere. A movement, therefore, which must become in time world-wide in its extension, which must result in the greatest public benefit and professional improvement, owes more in its inception, and progress hitherto, to your Royal Highness than can ever be adequately expressed, and to which the future history of Nursing can alone do justice.

"To-day, as representatives of Nurses in every part of Her Majesty's dominions, we beg your Royal Highness to believe that Nurses are deeply grateful to you for your great personal exertions upon their behalf: that they earnestly pray that God will, for many years to come, preserve you in health and strength, bestow upon you every blessing, and keep far from you all sorrow and distress. In dutiful respect they tender to your Royal Highness all good wishes for your Silver Wedding Day, and, in commemoration of it, they ask your gracious acceptance of this small ornament."

To this Her Royal Highness made the following reply:—

"I can scarcely express the very great gratification I feel at the kind words which accompany the beautiful gift that has been presented to me by the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association. This gift is a token to me of the kindly feelings borne me by the whole Association, whose welfare and well-being I have so near at heart. I would like these few words to convey my heartfelt gratitude to all the Members, and express to them how very much I admire the beautiful ornament chosen for me. It will ever be regarded by me as one of my real treasures.

"I should wish also to assure you all of my unceasing interest in the work of the Association, in the furthering of which I shall never weary. I feel certain that any opposition it may meet with will only tend to unite us all still more firmly, and in that close union lies our strength. But I am confident also that the singleness of purpose which is our aim will, in time, be fully recognised, and then all opposition will cease."

I AM pleased, but not surprised to learn that the whole of the amount required to furnish the empty rooms at the Nurses' Home of Rest, alluded to in the letter from the Duchess of Abercorn, Lady Audrey Buller, and Lady Jeune,

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