

Sister Alexandra when that post was vacated by Miss Isla Stewart, the present matron of St. Bartholomew's, in February, 1885, when she was appointed matron of the Small-pox Hospital at Darenth.

THERE was great excitement at St. Bartholomew's last week, for the half-yearly examinations were in progress. At that institution the term of training is three years in length, and every nurse is examined at the close of her twelve months' course of lectures. If unsuccessful she is "referred" for six months' further study. At the end of her third year she has a final examination to pass, and then, if successful, gains her certificate. Moreover, the nurse who comes out first in the primary examination is presented with a valuable book as a prize, while a gold medal is given to the best candidate at the final one. This time a kind correspondent sends me the following list of those nurses who have passed, of whom Miss Maud Wisden gained the gold medal:—Miss Munroe, Miss Pearce, Miss Breay, Miss Poole, Miss Alder, Miss Williams, Miss Harding, Miss Jessop, Miss Pretty, Miss Sayle, Miss Jones, Miss Mellett, and Miss Cutler. I also hear that Miss Bella Ferguson came out first in the primary examination, and chose as her prize, Ruskin's "Seven Stones."

I AM very glad to see that the Council of the Pension Fund are taking the advice of *The Lancet* and making a fresh start. I sincerely hope it will be more successful, though I don't quite understand how it is going to work. Any nurse who cannot afford to pay the premiums fixed at first, is now to write for a special form, and the Council will specially consider her case. Now, does this mean that she will get the annuity for a smaller payment than fixed by the tables, or does it mean that she will get a proportionately small annuity for the smaller payment? In the former case I fancy the Council will have their hands about full, if they consider every application separately, for of course no one will pay the ordinary rates if they can get their annuity for less. I wish some one would explain what it means, and how it will come out practically. Anyway, *The Lancet* and this journal may congratulate themselves on having proved, to the evident conviction of the managers, how unworkable the original scheme was.

BY-THE-BYE, I hear on all sides that, so far from the British Nurses' Association having attempted to damage the Pension Fund, several of the active promoters of that body laid the scheme impartially before those nurses they were severally connected with, and left them to judge for themselves whether to join or not, two matrons even offering to take the names and receive the first premiums of any of their subordinates desirous of subscribing to the fund.

This shows how extremely inimical to the Nurses' Association our contemporary who made the above assertion must be.

I HAVE received the very handsome card of membership, and like many of my friends am about to have it framed. It is a white card, three and a half inches by four and a half, with "British Nurses' Association, founded 1887," in Old English letters in scarlet at the top, the rest of the printing being in black; then comes a dotted line for the date, and underneath it another for the member's name; and below that, in Early English letters, "Has been this day admitted as a member of the Association"; then "Helena," in *facsimile* of Her Royal Highness' signature, and under the name the word "president," in small Old English letters. It is very "canny," as the Scotch say, of the founders of the Association to have invented such a card, for I hear on every side how it is valued. It is difficult to become a member of the Association now, which of course makes the membership more honourable for those who are elected; but I hear a rumour that as soon as this year is over the membership will be made more select and honourable still.

I AM told that when the bye-laws were drawn up many were anxious to admit only fully-trained and qualified nurses, but as a concession it was determined that till the first of next January any one should be eligible for election who had been engaged in nursing for three years; but after that the admission of new members should be more restricted. I am not surprised, therefore, to hear that about 650 members have already joined; and as the year runs out I expect that nurses will hurry to join in rapidly increasing numbers. The Association has issued a little "blue book," explaining its objects most clearly. Mr. Editor tells me he is going to reprint it in this journal as soon as he can, so I need not say more about it. The General Council is summoned to meet on June 8th at 5 p.m., so I hope we shall soon hear some news. One thing I could almost prophesy, from the clever way the Association is being managed—we shall not have any fanciful schemes proposed.

HOSPITAL INTELLIGENCE.

COMMUNICATED AND COLLECTED.

SHEFFIELD PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.—At the quarterly meeting of the governors, held on the 24th ult., a letter was read from Mrs. Edward Bingham, of Bromsgrove Lodge, stating that she was willing to contribute £500 towards the rebuilding of the dispensary, on condition that one of the new wards should be called the "Edward Bingham" ward.

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