

to that which Mr. Fatkin makes, is perfectly independent of his, notwithstanding that it is strongly corroborated by his figures. Another ground of complaint which we find in the prospectus is the exceedingly bad adaptation of the benefits offered to the actual needs of Nurses. An arbitrary interdict upon sick benefits, unless in conjunction with pension benefits, is one instance of this lack of appreciation; and the absurd provisions under which Nurses are invited to propose for policies subject to premiums of £30, £50, and even hundreds of pounds a year, is another example of the same kind. These are the flaws that we want to see corrected in the scheme; and although we are glad to allow Mr. Fatkin to make well-founded criticism in our columns, it must not be assumed that we have changed our ground, or have in the least abated our demand for a revision of the kind which we have heretofore indicated.—ED. L.]”

NURSING ECHOES.

* * * *Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

It is very interesting to look back, as I have been doing, to the earlier numbers of this Journal, and to see how truly, professional people gauged the possible success or failure of two Nursing schemes which were started almost together at the early part of this year—the British Nurses' Association and the so-called Pension Fund for Nurses. We prophesied in these pages that the first would be a great success, and that the latter must, upon its then system, be a failure. How correct our anticipations were, a very few figures will show, and may usefully be given. In February it was stated that more than fifteen hundred Nurses had inscribed their names as anxious to join the Pension Fund. Yet when the scheme was floated in April the promoters persuaded the benevolent founders to grant them till the end of 1889 to get together one thousand subscribers.

WHERE are the fifteen hundred now? The assumption of satisfaction, with which it has been announced that four hundred and eighteen Nurses have joined the Fund, at the end of eight months, is quite sufficient answer to this question. And, I suppose, most of my readers know that this number has been secured by most extraordinary pressure being brought to bear upon the Nurses of some Institutions, and by the touting of active agents among the employées of many other Hospitals. I am quite sure that the great merchant princes who gave the money to float the scheme

had no idea how little its promoters knew about Nurses and their wants. The fair and candid occasional criticisms upon the Fund which have appeared in the *Lancet* and this Journal—the writers of which, as professional people, of course, thoroughly understand the subject—and perhaps more conclusively still, the evident incapacity of Nurses to avail themselves of the benefits promised to them, must have convinced the generous donors of the futility of the Pension Fund.

MR. EDITOR has just asked me to mention that he reprints in this number a clever letter from the *Lancet* on the Pension Fund, which entirely corroborates from a new standpoint all that we have previously said about the Pension Fund, and proves mathematically, besides, that the premiums demanded from Nurses are 'twenty-five per cent. higher than they ought to be.' In this light it is rather wonderful that 418 Nurses have been persuaded to put their hard-earned savings into the Fund.

BUT how easily Nurses are influenced, and how willingly they come forward when invited to join together, by those they know and trust, is conclusively proved by the results achieved by the British Nurses' Association in the past ten months. Hundreds of Nurses want help in sickness and old age. There never has been the smallest doubt of that. Thousands of Nurses are willing to help themselves and each other. That is known now, for I am told, on the best authority, that more than two thousand members have now joined the British Nurses' Association, formed for this object. I hear also that members are simply pouring in from all parts of the country, and that in the last week one hundred and fifty applications for membership have been received. Why the Association has been so rapidly successful, and how probable it is that it will be enormously helpful to Nurses, is to my mind explained by the shrewd way in which it is being managed. I heard the other day, for example, that the great *Conversazione* at the Grosvenor Gallery cost about £200, but that the sale of friends' and guests' tickets was so regulated that the whole expense of the gathering to the funds of the Association was only £5! and that the financial gain to the Association was more than two hundred times as much as that!

WHAT I have from the first said constantly about the certain success of the Association, has been frequently prophesied also by the *Lancet*, and now I see by the *British Medical Journal* as well. Both these published notices last week,

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