

been considered as a reply by a contemporary of yours, who, in the early part of this month, republished Mr. Burdett's letter without any reference to mine, and, immediately under Mr. Burdett's letter, gave the following editorial note: "*The above letter closed the correspondence, as neither Mr. Fatkin nor the anonymous critics could answer the questions.*"

Permit me through your columns to state what I stated to your contemporary, viz.—that if, after perusing the two letters together, anyone considered that there were any questions respecting this matter requiring either answering or discussing, that I should be glad of the opportunity of addressing myself to the task through the medium of the columns of your paper.

I enclose you the two letters referred to, and desire to observe that Mr. Burdett merely pleads for his "Pension Fund," and does not attempt to grapple with the financial part of the question, which is the only one which I have dealt with or discussed. All other questions affecting the "Pension Fund" have been ably criticised by you and other Editors, and require no comment from me.

Secondly, please allow me to remark that none but the Honorary Manager and Mr. Burdett, who does not presume to possess actuarial knowledge, have ventured to criticise or dispute my figures, although it is evident from their correspondence that they have been in communication with, and received the advice of, their actuary.

In support of the financial statements that I have advanced on this subject, I am at any time prepared to submit the whole of my calculations to any competent tribunal, and will accept their verdict as to my competency or otherwise to fairly and truthfully deal with such questions, notwithstanding Mr. Burdett is advised that everything Mr. Fatkin has urged is not true! Who is Mr. Burdett's adviser?

In your Editorial article on Feb. 28th, you referred to the "honorary management" of the Pension Fund. Now, Sir, will the Council ask their Actuary the following question? Suppose 1,000 Nurses at 30 years of age join the Fund, and subscribe £10 per annum each for 25 years, in order to receive the pension provided by the tables at 55 years of age, and as each of the pensioners die off, or discontinue membership, a fresh one joins at 30 years of age. In how many years will the number of pensioners reach the maximum, and what will that number be? And supposing the Council can invest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., what amount of capital ought they to have in hand 40 years hence? When they receive this information, I should like to ask them if they are going to trust the management of such a financial undertaking in the hands of unpaid amateur accountants, however able their honorary manager may be?—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
THOMAS FATKIN.
Leeds, 2nd March, 1889.

PENSION FUND ARITHMETIC.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I am much interested in Nurses, and very fond of arithmetic. Will you allow me, therefore, to express my admiration of the powers of addition, subtraction, and I might even add multiplication, possessed by the managers of the National Pension Fund for Nurses? I must, however, in justice express my fear that at the present rate of progress they will

never show much power in division—of profits. I fall and grovel humbly before their powers of addition. Here is the very latest example—"540 Nurses had paid their contributions," and "37 applications were accepted at the present meeting," and "only about 180 more Nurses can now appear on the historic roll of the first thousand." So the little Pension Fund sum stands thus—540, plus 37, plus "about 180," equals "the first thousand." When I was at school, these numbers would have made "about 757," but then we had no "historic rolls" in those days, which perhaps accounts for it all.—I am, Sir, yours obediently,

ONLY AN OUTSIDER.

ARIEL POWDER PUFF.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Permit me, through the medium of your valuable paper, to recommend to my Nursing sisters a most ingenious little article, advertised in your paper as "The Ariel Powder Puff."

This excellent device owes its origin to a woman, and reflects the greatest amount of credit upon the inventor. Miss Mary Wedlake may be proud of her handiwork, for it deserves to be largely patronised.

For Hospital and Creche the "Ariel Powder Puff" will be found invaluable.

It is an elegant addition to the toilet table, and an economiser in the nursery, seeing that the powder can neither be overturned nor wasted. It is most suitable for the lying-in chamber, and serves for both mother and infant.

It is quite the baby's friend, as there is no general diffusion of dust to permeate the eyes, mouth, and nostrils.

The puffs can be obtained in iodoform, zinc, Fuller's earth, and violet powder; and for this combination of prettiness and utility, I beg to thank Miss M. Wedlake, on behalf of the sick and the newly born.—I have the honour of being, dear Sir,

A LIFE MEMBER OF THE B.N.A.,

AND A QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S NURSE.

Killerly Hall, Scarborough.

[We cordially endorse the perfectly independent testimony of our esteemed correspondent, in respect to this useful little invention, to which we shall ourselves again allude.—ED.]

NURSES' CAPS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—As one of the British Nurses' Association, "of which I am proud to say I am a member," I do raise "my hands and eyes" in horrified deprecation at "Nurse Marian's" shameless avowal that she wears no cap, neither agrees to the use of them. Her first objection, that they overheat the brain, would surely tend to show that that organ is in her a somewhat illogical one. Why should a cap, which, even including strings, weighs at the outside not more than half an ounce (I speak advisedly, having just weighed three of different uniforms, and different shape and texture), overheat the brain more than a bonnet weighing from three to six ounces? and if Nurse Marian wears those "long golden fibres" coiled after the prevailing fashion on the top of her head, a cap would hardly add an appreciable amount to their weight.

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