

"NURSING RECORD" BENEVOLENT FUND.

"BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS."

OBJECT.—To assist, by the united efforts of the readers of the *Nursing Record*, Trained Nurses who may be in need of temporary or permanent aid.

Proposition I.—That subscriptions shall be received to a Benevolent Fund, from which disbursements shall be made to relieve cases urgently needing temporary assistance. A statement of all such receipts and expenditure to be published in the *Record*.

II.—That for such cases of distress as need permanent assistance, the following procedure shall be adopted. Every annual subscriber to this journal shall have the right to send to the Editor the particulars of any such case, with which they may be personally acquainted, and if after full investigation it be found suitable, the name and particulars shall be entered upon a list. The *Nursing Record* will ask its readers to work unitedly for only one case at a time, and when that one, in the manner considered most suitable, is permanently provided for, the list of cases as above obtained, shall be published in the journal. Each copy of that issue shall contain a slip of paper, so that each purchaser of that number will be able to vote for one of the cases on this list by writing her name thereon, and forwarding it by post to the Editor. The following issue of the journal shall contain the number of votes polled for each case, and that one which receives the largest number of proxies, will be adopted as the next case to be relieved by the Fund; and the readers of this journal will then be advised as to the method which seems most suitable for helping that particular case, and asked to unite in securing its speedy success.

CASE I.

Mrs. Sarah Duyck, aged 47, a widow. Has broken her leg so badly, that she will probably be a cripple for the rest of her life. Dislocated one shoulder some years ago, so that she is even unable to use her crutches for long at a time.

Proposed Method of Assistance.—To obtain an annuity of £20 a year from the British Home for Incurables. To do this at least 1,000 votes must be procured from subscribers to the Institution. Lists of subscribers can be obtained by sending eight stamps to the offices, 73, Cheapside, E.C.

Will every reader of this journal do what she or he can to obtain votes for this sad case—to assist, in however small a measure, to bear another's burden? Such help will be gratefully welcomed by the Editor, *Nursing Record*, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., and all subscriptions, &c., will be duly acknowledged.

CORRESPONDENCE

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

. WHILST CORDIALLY INVITING COMMUNICATIONS UPON ALL SUBJECTS FOR THESE COLUMNS, WE DO NOT HOLD OURSELVES RESPONSIBLE IN ANY WAY FOR THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY CORRESPONDENTS.

. *Brevity and conciseness will have first consideration. See Notices.*

WHITE SLAVERY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—After all the very foolish epistles which I have read of late in the daily Press concerning Nurses and their work, it was indeed a treat to read a "Charge Nurse's" sensible letter in your last issue. From personal experience, I do not think it is at all likely that the majority of Nurses will submit to any form of labour approaching slavery—quite the reverse. Indeed, I am beginning to think that the consideration they receive in the majority of our Hospitals is having the effect of destroying rather than stimulating that spirit of unselfishness which is so necessary for the performance of their duties. I remember being much struck by noticing, in a Hospital where all the Sisters' rooms were painted in delicate colours and decorated with endless knick-knacks (very difficult for the Wardmaid to keep clean), that the room of one Sister was furnished (or rather not furnished) after the ascetic custom of the monastic orders—bare boards, high-backed chairs, and quite devoid of decoration. The difference naturally aroused my curiosity, and I was told later by a fellow worker that Sister C. confessed to being "only human," and was by nature self-indulgent, with a keen appreciation of the good things of this world. A very cosy room tempted her to remain in it more than she considered justifiable, and not being of the stuff which overcomes temptation with ease, she banished temptation in this particular instance, and found life less of a conflict between duty and inclination. A weak woman? May be, and yet a victor! Are Nurses as self-denying as they might be—nay, *ought* to be? Are those in the minority who have not estimated "my work" to a hair's breadth? Who cheerfully offer to give up "my time off duty" for the convenience of patients and fellow Nurses? Who obey necessary rules conscientiously because they have undertaken to do so in signing their contract, and because it is dishonourable to break their word? I hope my experience is singular, but I cannot say with truth that *endurance* is a quality of which Nurses as a rule possess a superfluous supply—no, nor the necessary supply. Nursing as a business is making rapid strides; but the *grace* of nursing, the spirit, the beauty of it, do not let us lose these things in this commercial age. "This world's loaves and fishes" are not altogether satisfying.—Yours truly,

A PARISH PRIEST.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—"Charge Nurse" only expresses the feeling of numbers of Nurses when she expresses gratitude for your able editorial of the 18th ult. The last thing

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