

by fifty human beings. Hence headaches, pallor, drowsiness, lassitude, inability to work. It is true that gas does not yield poisonous organic matter as human bodies do, but it produces other gases, more or less poisonous, as well as carbonic acid.

Look at the effect of this gas-polluted atmosphere of a London house on plants. The more delicate will wither and die in a few days; the more robust last for a few weeks only. It is only plants of exceptional character, such as the *Aspaderis*, that will continue to live indefinitely in the air of a London drawing-room. And yet we grow children, and expect them to be healthy, in an atmosphere where ordinary plants cannot exist.

The great injury inflicted upon health by gas-polluted air is shown by the recent experience of the Great Western Railway Company. It is stated that since the electric light was introduced into their offices the percentage of absences from illness has fallen from ten per cent. to two per cent. The introduction of the electric light will do much for the sanitation of houses, shops, and offices.

If all were done that ought to be done, if all faults of public hygiene as well as those of the personal management of individual lives were remedied, we might perhaps look forward to the time when every one, freed from the risk of violence, or the sapping of health by insidious disease, should live out robustly the natural term. Death would come at last, not with pain and distress caused by the premature failure of one organ, injured or overwrought, while the others struggle helplessly with the damaged mechanism, but gradually and easily as all parts fail harmoniously and vitality fades uniformly away—the euthanasia of true old age. But as I said before, so long as the fierce competition for subsistence remains what it is, so long as sensual indulgence gives pleasure, men will sacrifice the future to the present, and lives will be shortened by avoidable exposure and excess. We may do much to lessen it, but disease and premature death will continue; and the vocation of the Nurse will not cease.

NURSING RECORD BENEVOLENT FUND.—We beg to acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the receipt of four shillings and sixpence from Nurse Minnikin, and ninepence (postage stamps) from Miss J. S.

FRIENDSHIP is seldom truly tried but in extremes. To find friends when we have no need of them, and to want them when we have, are both alike easy and common.

NURSING ECHOES.

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

ON all sides Registration is being talked of. It has transpired that the new Registration Council, formed on December 6th, then appointed a Registration Board, consisting of many well-known Medical men and Matrons, and that under its direction the Register is to be opened at once. A regular form of application has to be signed by everyone desiring to be Registered, I hear, and the



Members of the British Nurses' Association are to be enrolled if their testimonials are satisfactory to the Board, without the payment of any fee. It is reported that all other applicants will be called upon to pay half-a-guinea.

IN return for the half-guinea, then, it seems that the Nurse will receive—first, an official Certificate of Registration; next, a gratis copy of the first issue of the Register of Nurses in which her name appears, and which will every year be published and sold to the public. But she gains practically far more than this. Every Nurse who becomes Registered is doing her part to raise her calling, and free it from the multitude of semi-trained women who are now practising upon the public. She is, therefore, not only protecting the public against Nursing quacks, but is protecting herself and all other Nurses against the unfair competition to which they are now subjected. I have never been surprised at the rapid way in which the B.N.A. has grown, for Nurses know where the shoe pinches, if the lay managers of Hospitals do not.

AN anonymous correspondent sends me the following cutting, without mentioning the name of the paper from which it is extracted. The writer, however, deserves the warmest thanks of many Nurses, in many Hospitals, for thus fearlessly calling attention to this vital matter. It is openly said now that the large amount of sickness and heavy mortality among the Nursing Staff of a great Metropolitan Hospital is due to the fact that its drains are in the most defective state, and have, in fact, never been even examined for over one hundred years! However the paragraphs run thus:—

“Of all places in the world it seems as if a Hospital ought to be kept pure and healthy in its atmos-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)