

Letters from Life.—No. 20.

Nursing Home,
Great Eastern Hospital.

DEAREST JEAN,—I knew something terrible would happen one of these days, and so it has, and instead of it being made public, and good being the result, everyone has combined, in the most shameless manner, to hush the matter up; and the worst of it is that, unless I do the same, the innocent only will suffer. It was in this way. Yesterday afternoon, when the Staff Nurse was off duty for her half-day, Sister came prancing down the Ward in full feather. Just as she was opening the door, she remarked, "I am going out with the Matron; take care nothing goes wrong," and left us—poor Nurse Ross and myself—in charge of the Ward with no further directions. I breathed a little secret sigh of relief. For once, we can make the patients thoroughly comfortable, I thought, and so set to work, and, for several hours, we were as busy as bees—serving the teas, making the beds, washing the feet—Ah! fastidious damsel, I can see the up-curling of thy dainty nose—you have no idea what a comfort and treat it is for a patient, in this Ward, to be washed (the rule is toes one week, and heads, the next). But as Sister

is so busy "coaching the House Physician for his exam."—he spends hours in her room—the rules are not kept, after the manner of the Medes and Persians; so Nurse Ross and I just watch our opportunity and keep our patients clean. The "Staff" makes no remark so long as she is not called upon to do more than is absolutely necessary. This is, of course, all very subversive of discipline; but the patients ought not to suffer.

Well! A little after eight the House Physician came round. He was going out to a dance, so paid an early visit. Nurse Ross went round with him and I held the lamp. As he was in a hurry, he gave several verbal directions, which is contrary to rule (but, like most other regulations in this Institution, this has lapsed); amongst others, he ordered a hypodermic injection of ergotine for No. 9—a poor fellow who is suffering from hæmorrhage due to some disease of the kidneys.

"Give him a good four minims, at once," he remarked casually, on going out of the Ward. "He's used to it."

A little later, Nurse Ross came to me, saying she had hunted high and low for Sister's keys, as the ergotine bottle was empty. She thought there might be another bottle in the poison cupboard. However, failing the keys (all the

ANNUITY FUND AND SICK PAY FUND FOR NURSES.

"FIGURES FOR NURSES TO NOTE AND REMEMBER."

For the same Annuity, Nurses have to pay from 20 to 26 per cent. more to the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses than old-established and very wealthy Insurance Offices demand. For example—

A Nurse aged 30, to purchase a deferred Annuity of £30 per annum, payable when she reaches the age of 55, must pay

	National Pension Fund.	Prudential Assurance Co.	Excess of Payment to N.
Single Premium	£228 7 6	£180 16 9	£47 10 9
Quarterly Premium	3 7 6	2 16 0	0 11 6

**EVERY NURSE INTERESTED SHOULD SEND A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE
TO THE EDITOR,**

"The Nursing Record," 376, Strand, London, W.C.,
FOR FULL PARTICULARS.

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