

prefer shirt-making at fourteen-pence a day to that old-fashioned resource of impecunious girlhood, service—especially “general service in a respectable family.”

The respectable mother of a respectable family offers £12 or £14 a year, a roof, four extremely simple and wholesome meals a day, a Sunday out once a month, and permission to go to church every week to a girl possessed of *at least* the following attributes: Strength, health, honesty, cleanliness, self-respect, industry and carefulness. To these may be and often are added, economy, good-temper, a thorough knowledge of kitchen and household work—of the niceties of table management, naturally puritanical instincts combined with a deep love for other peoples' children, cats, dogs, and canary-birds, no small amount of tact, and tolerance enough for a Quaker. Girls *are* found with testimonials that declare them to be possessed of all these qualities.

Reflect on it! In the kitchens and sculleries of England there are, at this present moment, young women rejoicing in an income of £14 a year, and unlimited bread and dripping, who are in possession of documents proving them to be graced with all the virtues of the vestal Nuns of old, whom the Romans delighted to honour! Happy England!

In Germany, girls of the middle-class and of the upper middle-class are, after they have completed their schoolroom training, sent away from home “to learn the household,” as it is called, that is to say, to serve a real apprenticeship among strangers, who are paid for teaching them to learn by practical actual work what work is, and what a domestic routine consists of. There is no work of the kind usually termed *menial*, a girl who “learns the household” may not be expected to perform. She is snubbed if she is slow and careless, if she blunts the knives when she cleans them, or pares the potatoes too thickly, or over-salts the soup, and burns the meat. She *must* sweep in every crevice, and dust the ornaments gently, and make the beds smoothly, and be neat and fit to be seen all the time. Depend upon it, she will know in future years what her servant can and cannot do. She has gone through it herself, and is being taught to govern with justice by actual service. Several girls may serve their domestic apprenticeship together. Often a large country-house will have relays of them. Great fun they have joking over the fires they lay at five o'clock in the morning, glorying in their first faultless pan-cake, and, when their work is done, going out with their mistress on equal terms, to some social gathering

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.P.F.
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,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)