

I AM asked to state that the NURSING RECORD does not criticise without being fully prepared to practise what it preaches. We exposed the absurdities of the National Pension Fund, and produced a scheme vastly cheaper and better in every way, and of which a considerable number of Nurses have already availed themselves. Now I would ask my readers to give me their opinion as to whether there is a real want for an endowed bed for Nurses at a convalescent home. If there is a need for such assistance, the NURSING RECORD will take means to meet it without the pettifogging meanness of appearing philanthropic at "somebody else's expense."

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I AM glad to hear that Miss SOPHIE MORRIS has been appointed Matron of the General Hospital, Bristol, out of a large number of candidates, and I cordially congratulate hereon her well-deserved success. Miss MORRIS was trained and received her certificate at the General Hospital, Birmingham, working there from 1885 to 1890. She then became Night Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, and subsequently held the same post at the General Hospital from which she was promoted to be Assistant-Matron. In view of the facts which are at present so much commented on, that all the best Nurses are joining the R.B.N.A., and that all the leading posts in the Nursing world are now being obtained by members of that important body, it is almost needless to add that I am also informed that Miss MORRIS was an early member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and a registered Nurse.

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TALKING of the Association reminds me of the many rumours which are afloat, at present, as to important new departures which are proposed to be undertaken. The great disadvantage under which the NURSING RECORD labours is that, while it is a staunch friend and supporter of the Association, it is so entirely independent of that body, and therefore so ignorant of its wishes, that we never know whether we shall do harm to its projects by divulging too soon the news which we receive from various sources. So, once more, I will maintain silence, but—a word to the wise. I WOULD EARNESTLY ADVISE EVERY ONE OF MY READERS, WHO IS ELIGIBLE, TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION AND BECOME REGISTERED, AT ONCE.

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LINCOLN is always well to the fore in Nursing matters. The following cutting from the *Lincolnshire Chronicle* will show how the work of our pro-

fession is appreciated by the working classes of this beautiful city:—

"Nurse Monica, who has been engaged in the parish of St. Botolph's during the last four years, having been recently transferred to the parish of St. Andrew's, the working men of St. Botolph's thought it a proper occasion to show their appreciation of the services rendered by the worthy Nurse to the sick and suffering in the parish. Their tribute took the form of an illuminated address and a small surplus sum of money, and these were presented to Nurse Monica at the Red House on Saturday afternoon last. The presentation was made by Messrs. Denton and Maidens, and the former, in a few well chosen and appreciative words, expressed the pleasure it gave him to present to Nurse Monica, on behalf of the committee, the illuminated address and money, the voluntary gifts of a number of working people. The following is a text of the address, executed by Mr. J. W. Clark, of Lincoln:—"Testimonial to Nurse Monica.—Dear Madam,—We, the undersigned, the Vicar, communicants, parishioners, and members of the St. Botolph's Church League, Lincoln, do hereby desire to testify our appreciation of and gratitude to Nurse Monica, who faithfully attended the sick, and endeavoured to alleviate their sufferings while in the official capacity as parochial Nurse in the above parish. This presentation is made in recognition of the able and efficient discharge of the duties of your office during the last four years. Afterwards transferred to the parish of St. Andrew's in this city on December the 6th, 1892."

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HAVE you read *Godey's Magazine*? Such is the question many Nurses are now very wisely asking, for this new importation from America is full of interesting matter, chiefly emanating from transatlantic pens, and, therefore, both fresh and unconventional. I wonder what English Nurses will think of KATE UPSON CLARKE'S complete novel—which appears in the March issue—"The Romance of a Trained Nurse?" I imagine it will appear strange to them that the Matron of the Hospital should be represented as a gossiping nonentity, whereas the Medical Officer is evidently a person of absolute power and immense importance, who moves Head Nurses from one ward to another, orders them down to his office for consultation, and generally keeps an eye on their doings, in truly paternal fashion. Of course, this stern and masterful being falls a victim to one of the Nurses (nothing can withstand propinquity), and "it was on a clear, breezy October day, that, in the little chapel of St. Jerome's, Priscilla married him." I am glad she did. We women always rejoice when an autocrat falls a victim to our wiles. But, seriously, nothing can be more disastrous to discipline in an Institution than to have men placed in authority over women.

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I HAVE been surprised that no one has taken up the cudgels for the "Trained Nurse" versus the Amateur, as suggested in these columns a few

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