

WE hear that there have been many applicants for the post of matron at the Hospital for Paralysis and Epilepsy, Regent's Park, and that a selection has been made of fourteen of the most suitable candidates. It is to be hoped that the number will be still further reduced before the selected candidates are invited to appear before the committee, otherwise much needless waste of time and disappointment will inevitably ensue.

THE editor of the *Charity Record*, as did the editor of the *Lancet*, spoke out plainly concerning the financial basis of the National Pension Fund when it was started with such a flourish of trumpets in 1887 as a sort of counter-blast to the formation of the British Nurses' Association, and unlike the majority of persons, the editor of the *Charity Record* is not only a good man of business but is consistent in his views, to judge from the following editorial remarks in the last issue of his paper:—

“ASSURANCE COMPANIES AND NURSES' ANNUITIES.

“Time seems to have quite justified the attitude we took up, and we were absolutely correct in our adverse criticism of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, at the time of its foundation. We contended that, from a business point of view, the nurses could do much better for themselves by going to an old-established assurance company. THE NURSING RECORD has recently taken up this subject in detail in the interest of the nursing profession, and has shown the remarkable difference in the premiums which the Pearl Company charges for annuities as compared with the charges of the Royal National Pension Fund. And, be it remembered, the more advantageous terms are offered by a company which has to pay dividends, as against a Fund which has been largely subsidised by charitable donations. The Pearl may not be the best office in which to assure; but it is surely very significant that it can offer more advantageous terms to nurses than a Fund which is supposed to have been started for their special benefit. The prime mover of the fund at the outset insisted that to succeed it must be based on business principles; but owing to difficulties which practical persons foresaw, substantial eleemosynary aid was sought and accepted. In our criticism of the movement we looked after the real pecuniary interest of the nurses, and just over ten years ago this very month—Oct. 20th, 1887—we wrote:—

“If such a fund is to be a purely business concern, is it really necessary, when there exist so many means of insuring and providing pensions and annuities? There is the Post Office system; there are a number of pension schemes at the present hospitals; there is the excellent Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund. And further there are innumerable well-established and sound insurance companies, able and ready to give hospital officials and nurses quite as good terms as it would be possible for them to obtain with anything like security from a fund which is by no means matured.”

AT a public meeting held in the Shire Hall, Bedford, and presided over by the Duchess of Bedford, for the purpose of explaining the object of a Rural Nursing Association for the county of Bedford,

we are glad to observe that in advocating the system of nursing in villages by cottage nurses of six months training, that the Duchess said, “she strongly disapproved of any woman who had not had the full three years' training being called a trained nurse,” in which progressive view she was supported by Dr. Schofield, who remarked “that he always as a professional man felt a calm steal over him when he had once established a good nurse in a home, and over and over again he had seen that the turning point with a patient was the arrival of the nurse into the house. Experience had shown that the visits of nurses had resulted in much more lasting good than in merely helping the patient back to health again. Wives and daughters were shown what real nursing was; they learned a little of sick cooking, and the example set was not forgotten when the work of the nurse ceased. He had come to the conclusion that if there was any life on earth by which a lady could give up her time to the greatest possible advantage to her fellow men and women, it was in the calling of a district nurse. It was absolutely impossible for him to exaggerate the good they did if they got the right woman. All they could say about her were those sublime words, to which nothing could add, ‘She goes about doing good.’”

“WITH regard to training he divided nursing into three classes. He could not recognize any nurse holding the title of trained nurse that had not undergone the curriculum of three years' training. The next class was the district nurse, of which there were two sorts: the ordinary district nurse with the minimum training of eighteen months, and the Queen's Jubilee Hospital Nurse. A district nurse meant a woman intended to work in a district, who had had a minimum training for eighteen months. The third sort was what he ventured to call the village nurse; a good conscientious woman, taken from the district in which she was going to work, then sent up and, as the Duchess had explained, trained for a period of six months, and thereby he ventured to think being a decided improvement upon the three months' trained nurse of some time ago. It was not too much to say that in the case of village nurses it was not too much to have an inspection from time to time to keep them up to the required standard, and he advised those present to affiliate themselves to the Queen's Jubilee Nursing Association which would inspect the district and also help them with money in the event of one of their nurses being employed.”

AT a meeting recently held at the Liverpool Town Hall, it was reported that the Diamond Jubilee Commemoration Fund raised in the city amounted to £23,472. The fund was closed, and a scheme

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