

the year. All this sounds ideal, but it also sounds expensive, and until such time as we awake a sense of responsibility in *pater familias* in reference to his daughter's professional future, so long, we fear, Hospital Committees will find it impossible to increase the expenses of our nurse training-schools out of *charitable* contributions. We are inclined to think that pupil nurses are now provided with many more comforts and advantages than the pupils in any other branch of work, by which they are assured a good livelihood in the future.

And we are not quite sure that these constant breaks—and so much recreation—are not after all more exhausting, and calculated to lead to more breakdowns in health, than steady, concentrated work.

At the annual meeting of the League of the Royal South Hants Nurses, Miss Mollett was re-elected President, Sister Haldane Hon. Secretary, and Sister Win'erscale Hon. Treasurer, and Misses Boden, Buckland, Donkin, Rider, Youlden and Mrs. Watts were elected to form the Executive Committee.

A new Nurses' Home has been built and just opened in the grounds of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Donnybrook, Dublin, with accommodation for twenty-four nurses. We hear the Governors have made most generous provision for the comfort of the nursing staff, and that the sanitary arrangements are perfect.

A special appeal is being made in support of St. George's Hospital Nursing Fund, Bombay. At present, sixty nurses are employed by this institution, thirty-six permanently in the wards of St. George's Hospital, and twenty-four on the Private Nursing Staff are available for private cases outside. The demand for private nurses is continually in excess of the number available.

The fees paid by the public, who employ the Private Nursing Staff, are sufficient to make this branch of the work self-supporting, and, indeed, there is generally a surplus which is applied towards the general Nursing Fund of the Hospital.

The nursing in the wards, on the other hand, except where occasionally a special nurse is employed from the Private Nursing Staff, is given free, that is to say, the Nursing Fund benefits in no way from the Hospital fees paid by the patients, as these are all paid to Government towards the upkeep of the Hospital.

We are glad to observe that the Committee consider that the balance of the fees earned by the Private Nursing Staff should, properly speaking, be devoted to the benefit of this branch of the work to strengthen the Provident Fund, and provide

passages for sick nurses requiring rest and change, and also to note that the new quarters lately provided for the nurses have proved of the greatest benefit to their health.

This year, moreover, the Committee of St. George's Nursing Fund have to meet a seriously increased expenditure, as, owing to the resignation of the Sisters of All Saints, a paid Lady Superintendent and staff will have to be employed to replace the services which the Sisters have so long rendered gratuitously.

We understand that the Committee of the Fund have been asked by Government to submit a scheme for the continuance of the work with as little change as possible, and that they will shortly formulate their proposals. But whatever alterations are made, it is certain that the Fund can hardly receive more faithful and self-sacrificing service than has been freely given for so many years, without reward and without obtrusion before the public, by the devoted ladies who are now withdrawing from the Hospital. The Sisters, we believe, have been contemplating retirement for some time past. Their task has far outgrown its original scope, and they no longer feel able to devote themselves to it. Their withdrawal will, we are convinced, be regarded with the utmost regret by the European community of Bombay, so many of whom have reason to be grateful for their ministrations in time of sickness. Services of this nature, so wearing and so prolonged, undertaken in a trying climate under discouraging conditions, are too rare to be passed over in silence when they are brought to a close; and it is gratifying to know that his Excellency the Governor in Council has honoured the ladies of the All Saints Sisterhood with an expression of his cordial thanks. The Governor's action will be heartily endorsed by the public, who have such good cause to know the value of the work performed so quietly and so well.

It seems there is some fear of nurses who are tired out with private nursing at home hurrying off to South Africa, under the impression that work will be found much easier there. This is a mistake. It is folly to think that private nursing, or, indeed, nursing of any kind, can be easy. Conscientious nurses have not an easy time, and very few expect it, and women who want to escape hardships should not project themselves into a young colony. Moreover, adaptability to circumstances and surroundings, and a happy, helpful tactfulness which makes every work a pleasure, are of the first importance amongst pioneers. The fact that private nurses at the Cape are paid £3 3s. a week as against £2 2s. at home is not so great a rise as at first appears; the cost of living and clothes are excessively expensive in South Africa.

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