

sented, and the National Aid Society. It is proposed to make the council of the suggested new society thoroughly representative. The King, it is understood, will be Patron of the society, and the Queen will probably be President.

Before any steps are taken to work out the scheme in detail, a complete understanding will be arrived at with the military authorities as to the precise duties towards which voluntary efforts should be directed. An appeal to the public for funds is contemplated. It will be of a two-fold character. A fund will be necessary to make such preparations as will ensure efficiency when the organisation is put to the test. No doubt is felt that a ready response will be made to the appeal from this point of view. Even more important, however, is the other aspect of the fund. It is proposed that each county, as a county, should be asked to undertake certain responsibilities towards the maintenance of Red Cross work in war. One county, perhaps, would guarantee to provide a hospital ship, another would undertake to contribute a sum of money towards the expenses of the work. The objects for which the substantial fund—estimated at about £80,000—which was at the disposal of the National Aid Society, was raised will not be affected by the proposed union. The money will not be drawn upon in time of peace, but, as in the past, it will be available to succour the sick and wounded in time of war.

The Home Hospital at De Montfort Square, Leicester, of which the Lady Superintendent is Miss Pell Smith, who is well known and respected in the nursing world, has recently been extended and reformed to cope with the growing requirements on its accommodation. Two adjoining houses have now been added, the operating theatre has been brought thoroughly up to date, the nurses employed are fully trained, the rooms are large and well-ventilated, and the drainage is carried out on a perfected system. Those who know Miss Pell Smith will not be surprised to learn that the home-like character of the institution has always been specially appreciated by the patients, and it is a boon to many that patients' friends can stay in the Home at a charge of from 6s. to 9s. a day. The terms for patients, inclusive of general nursing and maintenance, are from three to ten guineas a week. Arrangements as to medical and surgical attendance are made by the patients.

A private nurse writes to us:—

"During my career as a private nurse it has been my lot to witness many congratulatory visits from my patients' friends on their recovery from any severe illness, but never have I been privileged to witness one more touching than the following.

"Across the little bridge which separated the churchyard from the rectory garden, came an old man,

dressed in his best, a snuff-coloured suit and round, black felt hat, with a blue-spotted handkerchief knotted round his neck, upon which his scant white locks fell in an even semi-circle. He knocked unhesitatingly at the rectory door, and was shown into the room where my patient, pale and feeble from a recent operation lay upon the couch.

"She, too, was aged; the full term of life allotted to man had fallen upon both.

"The old bell-ringer, in rosy, healthy old age, still enjoyed the rest of the labouring man. It was Saturday afternoon. Placing his hat upon a chair he advanced briskly to her side and, taking her hands in his, kissed her warmly on both cheeks.

"Well, I be that glad to see 'ee 'bout agin, I be. And 'ees looking bettern I seen 'ee look this 'long' time. Do 'ee et 'ees food pretty fair now? Well, I be glad. 'Tis like my pigs, them as et the most does the best. Did ee 'ear them bells last night? They've bin ringed by I fur fifty-five year come May, an' I knew you was a-comin' 'ome, so I ringed 'um forree. Yer coachman's gettin' on fur an old man, too, but 'ee aint near as old as we be 'un? Ah, well! I be main glad to see 'ee back. No! no! not good bye, good day. God bless 'ee, ma'am, good day."

A matter affecting Boards of Guardians generally, involving a very important point for nurses in their employment, is receiving the attention of the Local Government Board, consequent upon an appeal made to them by the Newhaven Guardians. For some time past both the Newhaven and Lewes Boards have experienced difficulty in connection with the resignation of nurses. The vexatious point at present at issue is this: Nurses on resigning have sent in their resignations to the respective clerks, concluding that the month's notice takes effect from the day the letters have been received. But the two Boards have held otherwise, and have passed resolutions to the effect that the resignations date from the day they come before them at their ordinary meetings. So far this has worked satisfactorily with the Lewes Board, but the Newhaven Guardians have had a taste of the difficulties which may be encountered. One of their nurses desired to leave on a certain date—a month after she gave notice to the clerk—but the Board would not give her permission. She did not heed their resolution, however, and on the day she wished to leave she went—nine days before the expiration of her notice, counting from the date it came before the Board. The Guardians have consulted the Local Government Board on the matter, and have withheld the nurse's cheque pending their reply.

Speaking at the general meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association at Hatton, Ceylon, the Chairman stated that "Our nurses have continued to prove skilful and attentive, and have each sustained the good character brought from the Colonial Nursing Association of London, the Committee of which institution has always been of the greatest assistance in selecting and sending out nurses to us, and in affording us help in other ways."

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