

THE PENSION FUND.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I have just seen the issue of April 1st of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, in which there is a letter from J. Forbes Somerville, in which he speaks of the Royal National Pension Fund for nurses as a *farce*; but I consider it a *force*, and that for good to the nurses who join it. Mr. Somerville does not understand, evidently, the great work this fund is doing in sick pay, in annuities, and by the benevolent fund to so many who otherwise would be in sore need. I know of many nurses who wish they had joined earlier, and every year we are asked to help so many of our less fortunate sister nurses, who from various causes have fallen on hard times, and in some cases have little between them and the workhouse, showing that such a fund is really necessary.

I am one of the first thousand nurses who joined the fund, and I know that my pension has steadily increased in value. I am paying for an annuity of £38 6s., payable at fifty-five years of age; but with bonus additions, assuming that the distribution of bonus in 1907 is the same as in 1902, my annuity will then be worth £44 7s. 11d.; there will also fall to be added the bonus set aside specially for the first thousand nurses. I reckon by the date my annuity is due I shall have paid in £445 11s.

The well-known actuary, Mr. George King, has shown that the amount returnable to a nurse if she chooses to withdraw just before she enters on her pension is better than the endowment offered by an insurance office which has been advertised. I should like to know which "Insurance societies" will give at lower terms as good conditions as we enjoy.

(a) During the whole time up till payment is due the money is returnable with 2½ per cent. compound interest.

(b) The premiums are payable as best suits the policy holder; there is no fast rule that payments should be yearly or half-yearly in advance.

(c) That all money paid in will be returned to friends of the nurse should she die before her annuity is due.

(d) Sick pay is available during illness, of whatever duration the pension becomes due.

I trust you will pardon my long letter, but I feel very strongly that this fund is one we should support if we would help our nurses to help themselves. So far the nurses have responded well, and I trust as the benefits become better known the nurses will take even a greater advantage of all its privileges.

Believe me, dear Madam,
Faithfully yours,

MARY M. MACFARLANE, Matron.

The Victoria Infirmary,
Queen's Park, Glasgow.

[It was the "parade days and medal days and all the rest of the tinsel" to which our correspondent alluded in speaking of the Fund as a farce. There are, we know, many Matrons and nurses who would prefer to keep their insurance for old age on a business basis, and do not see why because they join an insurance society it should entail being marshalled about by drill sergeants and Sir Henry Burdett. We hope Mr. Somerville will give our readers some figures as to the results of other insurance offices.—ED.]

Comments and Replies.

Tired Pro.—We should advise you to obtain your shoes from the London Shoe Company, 123, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., and 116, New Bond Street, W. You would find them very comfortable and satisfactory. We never wear any others.

Ward Sister.—The address of the National Health Society is 53, Berners Street, W.

Vera.—We should advise you to write to the St. John's Ambulance Association, one of the objects of which is to establish classes for instruction by qualified medical practitioners in "first aid" to the injured and in nursing. The headquarters of the Association are at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, E.C. You would no doubt be able to obtain information there as to the classes nearest to your own locality.

Provincial Nurse.—Provided you have not been in contact with infectious disease, you are quite eligible for admission to Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest at Brighton, but you should apply well in advance in order to be sure of a vacancy. Write to the Matron, 12, Sussex Square.

Miss Thompson.—You can obtain a copy of the "Nursing Directory" at 11, Adam Street, Strand, at the offices of this Journal, price 5s. You should study the regulations of the various training-schools, and then write to the Matron of the one to which you wish to apply, asking for a personal interview. You may have to wait some time for a vacancy.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses will find an application form on page vii., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

Those nurses who are working on behalf of the above Society, and are endeavouring to spread knowledge as to its aims, may be glad to know that they can now obtain a Memorandum, giving briefly the reasons why Registration is necessary, from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 6d. for 20 copies.

Those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure the Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy, 1½d. Gives a brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

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