

### Hospital Saturday Fund.

An amount of nearly £12,000 has now been received on behalf of the present year's collection for the Hospital Saturday Fund. The Council have fixed Saturday, October 14, as the date of the "special" collection, which will be principally amongst tradespeople and as a supplement to the weekly effort in the workshops.

#### "Our Unhappy Divisions."

We regret to observe that Miss C. J. Wood, writing in a contemporary on the Training of Nurses, appears very sore over the trend of nursing affairs in this country, and in deploring the lack of unity in our profession, rips still further the breach by the bitterness and inaccuracy of her attack upon those who differ from her point of view.

Miss Wood deplors "our unhappy divisions," and straightway slashes out at her colleagues in language which is unjustifiable and untrue. Deploring the fact that we have no central body to deal with nursing matters, she gives as reason, "unfortunately a noisy faction can pose as leaders of the profession, and howl down all efforts that are made to form a Central Council on a wider basis," alluding we presume to the abortive attempt to hand over the Nursing Profession, bound hand and foot, to the tender mercies of a few wealthy laymen, and to their nominees, who had *privately* petitioned these powers from the Board of Trade, without the knowledge of the nurses themselves!

Far from being on "a wide basis," the constitution of the Council alluded to excluded the persons governed from all *direct* representation, and therefore perpetuated a restrictive, intolerant, and dangerous policy, which we are thankful to know was determinedly opposed, not only by the representatives of the medical faculty, but by the united effort of the organised trained nurses of the United Kingdom.

We could have hoped that the little isolated group of Matrons who voice their own professional affairs under the *agis* of the Midwives' Institute would have learned from their recent rebuff the much-needed lesson, that loyalty necessitates their co-operation with existing nurses' organisations if they wish to take part in the good work of building up their profession upon a sure foundation.

One thing is certain, a "wide basis" we must have, founded on sisterly co-operation, tolerance, and esteem, and it is high time that isolated Matrons and nurses threw in their lot with their more sympathetic colleagues, and removed the stigma of disunion with which we are branded, and which is so effectively used for their own purposes by those who deprecate co-operation amongst nurses and who alone benefit by the lack of common sense and good feeling.

### Lady Dudley's Fund.

One of the most useful schemes inaugurated in recent times is that founded by Lady Dudley for the establishment of District Nurses in the poorest parts of Ireland. That the work is needed is evident from the report. Here is one letter from a clergyman, whose appeal must remain unanswered unless more funds are forthcoming:—

"May it please your Excellency, the poor of this district are severely tried, inasmuch as there is no district nurse and no doctor within six Irish miles. I have laboured amongst them during the past five years, and the deaths in cases of maternity have been many. The people are the poorest of the poor, and being unable to pay a doctor's fee, which would be heavy, owing to the great distance, they trust to chance. The consequence is that many young mothers die. . . . During the past year, not to go back, I came across no less than five cases where the mother died simply because trained assistance was not at hand. It is, then, in this sad extremity that I bethought myself of acquainting Your Excellency of the sad condition of these people in this respect, in the hope that you might do something for them, &c. Should Your Excellency find it possible to send a nurse to this district the prayers of these good people will for ever follow you.—Yours, J. B."

Here is an instance where the services of a nurse who could afford to maintain herself would be well bestowed.

Lady Dudley recently motored from Killarney House to Glengariffe for the purpose of visiting Nurse Walsh, who has been at work in the district for some little time. Her Excellency was met at the Post Office by Nurse Walsh, the Rev. J. Browne, P.P., and Dr. Shorten, and was presented by the baby daughter of the postmistress (Mrs. Harvey) with a bouquet of cream and pink roses. The post office and other buildings were tastefully decorated with flags, ivy, and flowers, and no pains were spared to express the gratitude of the people for the great service Lady Dudley had rendered them in providing a trained nurse to look after their sick. They are enthusiastic in their praise of Nurse Walsh, who has given untiring care and attention night and day to the sick of the district, and has at the same time introduced methods of cleanliness and comfort into the houses which she has visited.

The problem of the nursing of the poorer districts in Ireland is acute; there is no hope of their being able to maintain a nurse themselves. Yet were one of their own number given a short training in nursing and sent back to work amongst them, not only would her experience be quite inadequate to deal with the problems which confront her, but half the value of the nurse's work, which is to teach the people a higher standard of cleanliness, and of sanitary methods would be missing.

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