

than to "cure." An outline knowledge of disease, as bearing upon points of Nursing special to it, is necessary in the Nurse, in order for her to carry out efficiently and intelligently the instructions of the Medical attendant. "Blind" as opposed to rational obedience may have suited our fast-fading "Mystery Men" (it was their complementary colour if I may say so), but not the accomplished Physicians of to-day.

There is another obstacle in the path of an independent career that the Nurse will have to deal with, patiently but resolutely. She will be told by many Nursing authorities, whose opinion is entitled to her highest consideration, that status will do her no good, and furthermore that women of education and refinement are not fit for Private Nurses. The duties, they say, are too menial, the pay too poor, the position too indefinite, for them. They may go through their Hospital training, and pass their examinations, and of course get put upon "lists"—whatever they may happen to be—but as it requires a great deal more to make a good Nurse than education and "cram," a number of "clever" incapables will be let loose on the public, who will break down on the first stress of real work; and the last state of that public will be worse than the first! Alas! poor public! There is something in these objections, for most true it is, that the qualities that go to make an ideal Nurse are by no means included in "cleverness" and "cram," as I shall endeavour to show in another article. In the meantime, I will meekly observe that in the Nursing world there are "incapables" the reverse of clever, and not a few "heaven-born geniuses" (especially in the direction of "heroic" medication), whose "education" might, to say the least of it, have been slightly extended without any serious risk from "over-pressure."

JUSTITIA.

[In reference to the views expressed by our anonymous correspondent, who we are informed is a much valued Private Nurse in a large provincial town, we must remind our readers that by inserting in our columns an article—especially a cleverly written one like the above, which we are glad to publish—we do not necessarily express our concurrence with the views therein advanced.—ED.]

THE following delicious coroner's verdict is in print, apparently a specimen of Baboo English—that is, English as written by a native of India. This was rendered upon an ill-fated Hindoo. "Pandoo died of the tiger eating him; there was no other cause of death. Nothing was left except some fingers, which probably belonged to the right or left hand."—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

"NURSING RECORD" BENEVOLENT FUND.

"BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS."

OBJECT.—To assist, by the united efforts of the readers of the *Nursing Record*, Trained Nurses who may be in need of temporary or permanent aid.

Proposition I.—That subscriptions shall be received to a Benevolent Fund, from which disbursements shall be made to relieve cases urgently needing temporary assistance. A statement of all such receipts and expenditure to be published in the *Record*.

II.—That for such cases of distress as need permanent assistance, the following procedure shall be adopted. Every annual subscriber to this journal shall have the right to send to the Editor the particulars of any such case, with which they may be personally acquainted, and if after full investigation it be found suitable, the name and particulars shall be entered upon a list. The *Nursing Record* will ask its readers to work unitedly for only one case at a time, and when that one, in the manner considered most suitable, is permanently provided for, the list of cases as above obtained, shall be published in the journal. Each copy of that issue shall contain a slip of paper, so that each purchaser of that number will be able to vote for one of the cases on this list by writing her name thereon, and forwarding it by post to the Editor. The following issue of the journal shall contain the number of votes polled for each case, and that one which receives the largest number of proxies, will be adopted as the next case to be relieved by the Fund; and the readers of this journal will then be advised as to the method which seems most suitable for helping that particular case, and asked to unite in securing its speedy success.

CASE I.

Mrs. Sarah Duyck, aged 47, a widow. Has broken her leg so badly, that she will probably be a cripple for the rest of her life. Dislocated one shoulder some years ago, so that she is even unable to use her crutches for long at a time.

Proposed Method of Assistance.—To obtain an annuity of £20 a year from the British Home for Incurables. To do this at least 1,000 votes must be procured from subscribers to the Institution. Lists of subscribers can be obtained by sending eight stamps to the offices, 73, Cheapside, E.C.

Will every reader of this journal do what she or he can to obtain votes for this sad case—to assist, in however small a measure, to bear another's burden? Such help will be gratefully welcomed by the Editor, *Nursing Record*, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., and all subscriptions, etc., will be duly acknowledged.

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