

have to pay £2 2s. ! That is to say that clerks, dispensers, and porters would pay nearly one-sixth part less for an annuity than a nurse would have to do. And this is called a National Pension Fund for Nurses!

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So the secret is out at last. Nurses were absolutely to pay more for their "pensions" than first-class offices charged for annuities, in order that male hospital officials should pay less ! ! No wonder the tables for males were not published, as the *Lancet* rightly complains. Of course they were not; most carefully not. And if it had not been for the *Lancet* and the *Nursing Record* pointing out the apparent defects in the scheme, some poor nurses might have joined the Fund. Mr. Editor will not let me say what I think about this; but when one remembers how hard nurses have to work, and how badly they are paid in comparison to other hospital officials, it makes one's blood boil to discover such a Pecksniffian attempt to make them believe this National Pension Fund was FOUNDED for their benefit and in their interests ! ! !

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Apropos of nursing homes in connection with hospitals, a correspondent informs me that there is to be a home formed among the new buildings of the General Hospital at Bristol, which is to be for nurses who have been trained at the institution and are to be sent out to nurse the richer sick in the city and its neighbourhood. The writer also reminds me that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (then Miss Manson) published a paper about eighteen months ago, in which she pointed out the advantages to the public, to the medical profession, and to nurses of the establishment, of private nurses' homes in connection with the general hospitals of the Metropolis and the provinces, and suggested that the system would almost certainly become universal.

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HER words have certainly been most prophetic, for one institution after another is now adopting the plan, not only at the general, but also at many of the smaller special, hospitals. For example, it was stated that there are now private nurses' homes attached to the University College, Charing Cross, Westminster, Guy's, the London, Bartholomew's, Middlesex, and King's College Hospitals. It must, of course, be better for the public to obtain their nurses direct from a centre of experience and knowledge like a training school. How well it answers and how greatly it may improve the remuneration of the nurse is clear from the scale upon which they are paid. For example, at St. Bartholomew's the private nurses receive £30 a year with indoor and outdoor uniform and everything found, and if they have been three years in the hospital they get in addition 10 per cent. upon all they earn; after four years' service 20 per cent.; and in their sixth year of work 25 per cent.

THE result of which is that most nurses after five years are making a clear £50 a year. And it is perfectly certain that a private institution which has to pay its expenses, and salaries, and probably in addition interest on the capital employed, all out of the earnings of its employées, cannot possibly afford to treat them so liberally. Talking of private nurses, I am sorry to hear there has been a strike at the Sheffield Nurses' Home. The matron seems to have had some disagreement with the committee and resigned in consequence, while thirty-one out of thirty-eight of the staff threatened to leave if her resignation was accepted. It is always wrong to judge from a one-sided statement, so I should be glad to hear the facts of the case from the nurses as well as the committee before saying any more. I would only point out that all experience of "strikes" proves that they seldom do any good and frequently create much harm and ill-feeling between those whose best interests are served by amicable union.

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I HEAR that Miss Mary Pratt, the popular matron of the Cardiff Infirmary, was the successful candidate last week in the keen contest for the post of matron at the Derby Infirmary. Her success teaches a lesson, by-the-bye, which all ambitious nurses might well take to heart. The candidate who was second in the competition was a much respected and most clever sister at a great London hospital, but she was disqualified for the post by her want of experience of housekeeping. There is no doubt that to a matron—especially of a provincial hospital—such knowledge is absolutely essential, and that it is useful to every one who aspires to the headship of a hospital, and desires that the institution she is in charge of shall be perfectly managed in every particular.

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TALKING of this subject, I think the prize essay competition will prove most instructive to nurses of all grades; and especially as it is proposed to print several essays on the same subject if possible, as we shall then gain by these means a *variety* of opinions. I should much like to read a series of papers on "Diets for Nurses," which Mr. Editor promises shall be the subject for the next prize essay. My experience leads me to believe that more complaints are made by nurses concerning their food than ought to be justifiable, considering the acknowledged generosity of the majority of lay committees.

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THERE is no department of hospital management where more patience, tact, ability, and common sense is required than that organised by the home housekeeper. I purposely give this lady the title of which she should be worthy and proud, if she is to succeed in the particular branch of administration which she has undertaken. It is not necessary

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)