

scriptions have fallen off to the extent of £77; but, owing to the numerous funds raised last year in connection with the Jubilee and other movements, there is every probability that these were the means of diminishing subscriptions to the hospital and other institutions. The earnings of nurses has enabled the treasurer to transfer the large sum of £700 from the balance in hand of the private nurses' fund to the the general fund of the hospital.

Changes in the *personnel* of the hospital consist in the election of Dr. Moody-Ward to the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Shea, and the election of Rev. P. H. Ditchfield in the place of Mr. Hawkes, who resigned his seat on the board of management. Mr. H. A. Kidd succeeds Mr. J. C. Rossall as assistant house surgeon.

### OUR DAUGHTERS.

EVERYTHING Mr. Walter Besant does he does with a will, and none can help admiring the vigour which prompted his article under the above heading which appears in this month's *Longman's*. But, what is unusual with Mr. Besant, this particular article in question turns out to be a series of suggestions which are perfectly impracticable. The gifted writer has an idea that the male portion of the universe should provide pensions for the weaker sex.

The contribution has attracted a considerable amount of attention, and there has been going on ever since an amusing, and at the same time interesting and instructive, correspondence in the columns of *The Daily Telegraph*; amusing for the numerous ridiculous suggestions put forth by a large number of those who have taken it upon themselves to try and deal with the matter; instructive, as the correspondents prove undoubtedly how deplorably helpless certain people in our midst are; interesting, as it affords plenty of matter for serious contemplation by those who make the employment and vocation of women a study. We cannot help but notice that the bulk of correspondents seem to suggest nursing as a field for the energies of women. So far, so good. But already the supply in this particular work is quite equal to the demand; and before pseudo-philanthropists and the uninformed make suggestions as to a certain class of work being taken up by women, they should satisfy themselves that there is sufficient scope for their energies in that particular direction.

The chief cause of the correspondence—springing, of course, from Mr. Besant's article—was a father of a certain number of daughters giving his troubles to the world about trying to make both ends meet on £300 per annum. It strikes us very forcibly, if the father whose wife's maternal aunt was first cousin to a baronet, instead of rushing off

to put his grievances on paper, had only called together his distinguished relatives and held a consultation, taking into the council a few business-like common-sense outsiders, he would probably have been told that thousands of men in our country are maintaining and educating families, and still have to spare, on a far less income than the £300 a year. The example of a few practical lessons in self-help and self-reliance would do more to assist this apparently distressed father than all the whines in the columns of a daily paper are likely to procure for him.

### NATIONAL PENSION FUND FOR NURSES.

(Continued from page 17).

IN support of our suggestion last week, *i.e.*, "Therefore, we earnestly ask all nurses, and those who contemplate joining a fund of this description, to withhold their money and support until such times as we have put before them sufficient evidence to enable them to judge for themselves which is the most suitable," we feel constrained to give in full the instructive criticism brought to bear upon the subject by our leading contemporary. In its issue of the 7th the *Lancet* says:—

"The prospectus of this institution has now been issued, and the public and the nurses are in a position to judge of the benefits which have been secured by the liberality of its promoters. It would indeed be ungenerous not to acknowledge in the amplest terms the princely munificence of the four gentlemen who have between them contributed the sum of £20,000 to be held as the required Government deposit for the solvency of their projected Pension Fund, and who, moreover, have made a present of the income which, at least for many years to come, this capital sum will earn. They have done nobly, and we are persuaded that to no one would the disappointment be greater than to them if by any mismanagement the great opportunity which their liberality has provided should be thrown away. Yet of this there is at present only too much ground for apprehension. A letter which has appeared in *The Times*, bearing the signatures of official members of three different Women's Benefit Societies, puts with great force the objection that 'the charitable element in the Society is calculated to deal a blow to the cause of women's independence and providence in other trades and occupations. Women are beginning to organise and manage trade and benefit societies for themselves, unaided by charity, and many a poor seamstress is paying 2d. a week to receive the business-rate benefit of 5s. a week. Will she continue this when she hears that the higher-paid nurse gets a larger sum for her money? Provision made for the nurse with the help of the

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