

PARKES MUSEUM.

ON Saturday afternoon, the 5th, a special meeting was held at the Parkes Museum, Margaret Street, W., on the occasion of the distribution of certificates by H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany, patroness of the museum, to ladies who had passed an examination following a course of lectures on Domestic Hygiene. There were present Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Albany, Lord and Lady Wantage, Sir Joseph Fayrer, Sir Thomas Crawford, Sir Douglas Galton, Sir R. Rawlinson, Lord Basing, F.R.S., Sir Spencer Wells, Bart., Baron Bunsen, Sir Vincent Barrington.

Her Royal Highness was received by Lord Wantage, Sir Douglas Galton, Sir Thomas Crawford, Sir Joseph Fayrer, and other vice-presidents and members of the Council.

Sir Douglas Galton opened the proceedings by thanking the Duchess of Albany for both honouring the museum with her presence and for having so graciously consented to become the patroness of the museum, it having the double advantage of endowing the Parkes Museum with Her Royal Highness's own love of intellectual progress and of perpetuating the memory of the late and most lamented Duke of Albany, the first president of the Parkes Museum. He added that he had received letters from the following members regretting their inability to attend the meeting:—H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, His Grace the Duke of Westminster, His Grace the Duke of Richmond, the Earl of Derby, Lord Fortescue, the Earl of Meath, the Earl of Dysart, Professor Huxley, Thomas Sidney, Esq., Lord Thring, Mr. Charles Parkes, the Baroness Burdett Coutts, the Countess Russell, Professor Tyndal and Miss Florence Nightingale.

Miss Florence Nightingale's letter was of particular interest, expressing her deep sympathy with the objects of the museum, especially with that of the afternoon.

Sir Douglas Galton explained the objects of the museum, and the endeavour that was being made to diffuse sanitary knowledge by the practical illustration of matters relating to health and sanitation, and by demonstration and lectures in the museum.

He also spoke of the need which was felt by friends of hygiene and workers in sanitation at this critical point when further progress of the sanitary education of the nation required earnest and concentrated effort; and expressed a strong belief that if all the different sanitary and health associations were combined, ample funds for the endowment of a grand National College of Hygiene, with affiliations in the chief localities of the empire, would be at once available.

The course of lectures which had been given by Dr. A. T. Schofield were especially designed to give

ladies a practical knowledge and interest in sanitary matters, putting them in possession of facts which they had no other means of obtaining, and aiding them to intelligently control the sanitary concerns of their own homes and give considerate counsel to the poor whom they visited.

An examination had been held at the close of the course, and it was gratifying to find that great interest had been expressed in the lectures and that many ladies who had been attending them came up for the examination.

The report of the examiners, J. Langdon Down, M.D., F.R.C.P.; Frederick Treves, F.R.C.S.; Alfred T. Schofield, M.D., was read by Dr. Schofield, and Her Royal Highness presented the certificates to the successful candidates.

A vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Schofield; and Lord Wantage proposed on behalf of the museum a vote of thanks to Her Royal Highness for having graciously come to the museum on this occasion to present the certificates and evince her interest in the work of practical teaching which the museum seeks to accomplish.

NATIONAL PENSION FUND FOR NURSES.

(Continued from page 39).

WE now propose to prove an assertion which we made in a previous number, *i.e.*: "That in matters of rates and conditions the National Pension Fund for Nurses cannot in any way favourably compare with the same value for the nurses' investments as could several established and sound insurance societies." *The Lancet* clearly shows, in its issue of Saturday last, that the rates of the Gresham, the Star, and the United Kent Insurance Associations are all considerably lower than the rates of the National Pension Fund. No one for one moment can venture to doubt the stability and safety of the above-mentioned institutions. They are of long standing, and have been tried and proved, and their position is very high in insurance and financial circles. The office, however, whose tables we ourselves shall quote for comparison is the Prudential Insurance Company. The company is, we believe, either the second or third largest in the whole world, and is the admiration of everybody who knows anything at all about insurance matters. Its assets—that is its available property or security—amount to nearly *seven million pounds sterling*, rendering its pecuniary position perfectly unassailable. We obtain—on comparison of Table I., National Pension Fund for Nurses, with that of the Prudential—the following results, to secure a pension of £15 a year, to commence at the age of fifty:—

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