

with bitter opposition, and she suffered much in working for the right. Pioneers in any reform are always more or less persecuted, and any person—especially a woman—who sets out to do good public work, to be successful must have some of the stuff in her that martyrs are made from.

THE training of a whippet (*i.e.*, a greyhound) for racing is really an instructive bit in Nursing. Master Whippet from an early age has an exceedingly good time. He feeds on the daintiest and best, including soft-boiled eggs and bread sopped in tea; and he also partakes of beef soup and pearl barley. After such a breakfast he takes a spin of four to five miles, after which a good rub down and massage! He is then wrapped up in a blanket and put to bed. He dines at 1.30 on "a grilled chop or steak," takes a siesta, after which more exercise, massage, a dainty meal of mutton broth and bread or a little white fish. When his training is over his diet is carefully looked after. During the intervals between one race and another he is fed on Liebig's Extract and Brand's Essence. "Whippets" really should be the inmates of Nursing Homes!

THE Committee of the Needlework Guild of St. Patrick's in Dublin have declared against the use of flannelette. They ask their contributors in all cases possible, to substitute flannel. They say "flannelette has almost taken the place of flannel. For one garment we receive of the latter we get three of the former. The constant washing of garments is an absolute necessity with the sick poor, and flannelette *will not wash and retain its warmth*; it is therefore useless in the case of rheumatic or consumptive patients." When the extra expense of flannel puts it beyond subscribers' reach the Committee asks that only the heavier kinds of flannelette should be employed, and they suggest that coarse flannel is better than the best flannelette.

The St. Patrick's Home was affiliated to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, so that it not only maintains a permanent staff of Nurses for the purpose of visiting among the poor in Dublin but it also trains probationers for the Queen's Institute.

MISS KNAPPERT, who is instituting the system of District Nursing in Holland, recently paid a visit to St. Patrick's Home and wrote after:—"I went to Dublin to see the work. I have now seen much of it, and am fully determined to have it upon exactly the same lines in Holland—may I soon be able to say all over Holland." The

result of this visit was the training of a Dutch lady, Miss Kruysse, who has now returned to Holland fully equipped to be the pioneer of District Nursing there.

A LIVELY discussion is taking place in our able contemporary, *The Trained Nurse*, concerning the establishment of a Pension Fund for American Nurses, and we re-publish below an excellent letter which appears this month in its columns, from Miss L. L. Dock, the late Superintendent of the Illinois Training School at Chicago, a woman strongly imbued with professional feeling, and with whose Nursing views we have always been in sympathy. We feel sure that should our American sisters establish an Assurance Society for Nurses it will be on a purely business basis, and subsidiary to their National Organisation of Nurses, and that they will maintain their independence as working women.

"DEAR EDITOR,—I notice, in the May number of the magazine, a letter from a correspondent who purposes to revive the pension fund idea (which, it will be recalled, was advanced a few years ago and met with no popular approval), with the hope of creating a widespread interest in it and of establishing a 'national organisation' upon this basis. As your correspondent calls for suggestions from all sides, and as the project is one of varied significance, it does seem desirable that it be considered, not only in its present aspect, but also in its relations with the future.

At the outset there is something displeasing in the name—pension fund. It stands for an idea which is repugnant to the instinctive feelings of self-dependent, self-sustaining people. It means the sapping of that sturdy feeling of self-reliance and of that reticence as to our own private and personal affairs which should be to us a jealously guarded heritage. We can follow the workings of the same idea through various departments of our national life, by reading the daily papers and the magazines, and we can learn from them how insidiously demoralising is its influence. The very tone in which the pension fund proposition is always written of, if attentively listened to, sounds a clear alarm. 'Extra privileges,' 'rewards,' 'benevolent-minded people,' 'interest of our pensioners'—can we fail to realise fully what frame of mind we must be in before such ideas can appeal to us? Of course, I know that such sentiments as mine are visited with the severest condemnation of these same 'benevolent-minded people.' Indeed, no persons can be compared with the philanthropists for intolerance towards those who prefer not being objects of philanthropy; as, for instance, all those who did not agree with the ideas of the founder of the English pension fund were either fools or knaves, and one is reminded of the story of the little boy whose father was bent upon spending a pleasant day in the country: 'Now, we will go to the country to have a good time, and if you don't have a good time, I'll thrash you.'

Is it not plainly evident that the direct effect of a pension fund and, above all things, of a national pension fund, will be to depress the rates of the Nurse's payment? Is it to be supposed that she can maintain her present charges if it is known that such a beneficial institution is in existence?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)