

and enter into competition with English Nurses." So a Nurse said who came to us recently full of righteous indignation because of some cases having come under her notice of the employment by Nursing Institutions of Continental Nurses. "It seems very hard," she continued, "that while many private Nurses in London are out of employment, foreigners are engaged. The normal competition between woman and woman makes life quite difficult enough, without introducing this new factor into the puzzle."

We find that her statement of the employment in London of foreign Nurses, is perfectly true. But the explanation of this is the law of supply and demand. There are many foreigners in London who not only demand Nurses of their own nationality by preference, but who do so on the ground that they speak their own tongue. So many Continental people in London are quite unacquainted with English, and therefore, unless they can find English Nurses speaking foreign languages, they must perforce employ Nurses of their own nationality.

We have frequently called attention in the RECORD to the desirability of Nurses, wishing to do private work, making themselves acquainted with French or German, and better still with both. There are so many classes held in all parts of England, in conversational French and German, and the cost is so small, that there is every facility offered to the Nurse-student to acquire the valuable addition to her *repertoire* that a knowledge of these languages affords. It is evident that this is the only way to combat the introduction of "foreign nursing" into England. The foreign Nurses complained of must, assuredly, have made themselves conversant with English, or they would have no chance of employment here. The training abroad cannot compare in thoroughness with ours, and we imagine the English Nurse would in nearly all cases be much preferred, provided she could "speak in tongues."

"I had very little time while I was with my last patient, to study French," writes a private Nurse from Lausanne, "but now that I have a less serious and a more chronic case, I shall work very hard at the language." Our correspondent is right to increase her knowledge and her value in this way, and we strongly advise all Nurses who have the opportunity to do likewise.

It is announced that a third donation of £22,500 has just been made to the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, bringing up the donation fund to £67,000. The following is a list of the donors:—Mr. J. B. Robinson, £5,000; Messrs. Wernher, Beit & Co., £5,000; Mr.

Walter H. Burns, a further £2,000; Lord Iveagh, £2,000; Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, a further £2,000; Messrs. N. M. Rothschild & Sons, a further £1,600; Mr. D. Marks, £1,105; Messrs. Marks, Bulteel & Co., £1,000; Mr. E. A. Hambro, a further £500; Messrs. L. Hirsch & Co., £500; Messrs. Ansell, Mankiewicz & Tallerman, £300; Mr. E. Cassel, £250; Mr. Robert Gordon, a further £200; Mr. G. Bulteel, £105; the Hon. Egremont Mills, £105; Mr. E. Rawlings, a further £100; Mr. C. Morrison, a further £100; Mr. H. L. Raphael, £100; Mr. D. J. MacRae, £100; Messrs. De la Bere, Bellairs & Pelham, £100; Messrs. Hyam Brothers, £100; Mr. Carl Hanau, £100; Mr. Harry Pearson, £100; the Duke of Northumberland, £25; Mr. Jeffery Whitehead, £10.

We are glad to know that some of the gold which has been piled up in the City during the few last months is to go for the benefit of the Nurses. The "South African boom" certainly ought to help many benevolent and charitable schemes, and it is only right that "tenths and tithes" should be used for philanthropic purposes.

At the Chard Board of Guardians recently two applicants for the post of Nurse appeared before the Board. Both were refused, and as their combined travelling expenses mounted up to £4 7s. 6d., a somewhat startling sum, a strong expression of opinion took place, that it would be advisable before candidates for nursing positions were summoned before the Guardians that certificates of birth should be furnished, and photographs "of a recent date." It was decided to notify to other candidates that it would be advisable to produce birth certificates. Mr. Stephens: "Seeing we're such very good judges of age, I don't think that is necessary." (Laughter.) We hear on good authority that many Boards are horrified, after seeing quite young and nice-looking photos of Nurse candidates, who confess "to being 30," to have very aged and worn-out persons attending on selection day. "Birth certificates" and "recent" photos are consequently their only armour of defence.

THERE is much excitement in several Irish Workhouse Infirmaries, whose Nurses are not certificated, over the action taken by the Local Government Board over the Athlone case. Questions have been asked by anxious Guardians as to how the difficulty may be got over; and the uncertificated Nurses who are placed in these positions of authority are feeling that their tenure of office will probably be very short. The Local Government Board can afford to smile at the resolutions condemning their action

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