

Coming Events.

Feb. 21st.—The Duke of Connaught, the President, will open two closed wards of St. Thomas's Hospital, when the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will attend.

Lecture on Bacteriology (with demonstrations), at the offices of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 11, Old Cavendish Street, W., at 8 p.m.

The Annual General Meeting of the Geological Society, at 3 o'clock. At the Royal Institution, at 9 o'clock, Dr. E. Frankland, F.R.S., on "The Past, Present, and Future Water Supply of London."

Feb. 22nd.—At the Royal Institution, at 3 o'clock, Lord Rayleigh, F.R.S., on "Light."

Feb. 24th.—Public Meeting, National Council of Women, St. Martin's Town Hall, 7.30 p.m. The President, Lady Henry Somerset, will preside, and deliver an address. Among the speakers will be Mrs. Eva McLaren, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick Mrs. Alec Tweedie, and Professor Roberts-Austen. Open to the public.

Feb. 25th.—The Lord Mayor will preside at the Annual Dinner in aid of the City Dispensary.

Feb. 26th.—The Duchess of Albany will preside at the Re-opening of the Wards of the East London Hospital for Children, 3 p.m.

Feb. 27th.—Matrons' Council. Practical Demonstration by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on "The Nursing of Cases of Operations on the Intestines," at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, at 8.30 p.m. Free to members. To non-members, 1s.

Feb. 29th.—The Duke of York will preside at the Festival Dinner in aid of the funds of the Victoria Hospital for Children, Hôtel Métropole, 7.30 p.m.

A Sad Case.

MISS ANNESLEY KENEALY sincerely thanks those ladies, whose names are given below, who have so kindly and generously responded to her appeal for help for a St. Bartholomew's Nurse, who has been brought to great poverty and distress through long continued illness.

	£	s.	d.
Miss H. Margaret Smith	5	0	0
Miss Okell	0	5	0
"Hampstead	0	5	0
Miss Hayes, Lady Superintendent			
Co. Tyrone Infirmary	0	5	0
Sisters of the Herbert Hospital,			
Woolwich	0	7	0
Nursing Staff, Gordon House ...	0	10	0

CLOTHING.

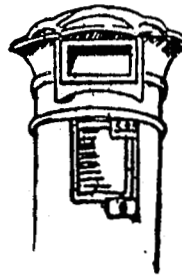
Dress length of black serge, from Mrs. Okell.
Hospital bonnet and six uniform collars, from E.B. and A.M.

Print dress length, dress, and many useful articles of underlinen and clothing, from Mrs. Barsham, Bournemouth.

A shawl, underlinen, blouse, tippet, &c., from Miss Dallas, Holgate, York.

Underlinen, from Miss Hayes, Co. Tyrone Infirmary.

A dressing gown, skirts, and other very nice articles of clothing, from Nurse Seidler, Chiswick.



Letters to the Editor.

Notes, Queries, &c.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

"ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The letter in your last issue on the proposed Act to be introduced into Parliament providing for the superannuation of Poor Law officers is interesting and important, and I should like, as an Infirmary Nurse, to express my gratitude to "Satisfied" for having called attention to the bearing the prospective Act will have upon Poor Law Nurses generally. I see that the Bill has been balloted for, and a time has been set apart for its hearing, so that it is quite time to consider its provisions from every point of view.

Now—from the broad point of view of the best interests of workers in general—I am not inclined to agree with "Satisfied" that the liberal interpretation by Boards of Guardians of the Act of 1864, which gives such Boards discretionary powers to grant superannuation pensions to officers who have done their duty, renders it unnecessary to have a more definite Act brought into force. I think that the conditions under which pensions may be granted to any class of workers should always be very clearly laid down. It is so much more satisfactory to an official to realise that he has a *right* to expect a pension after so many years' service rather than to *hope* that a considerate and kindly Board will bestow one upon him. So far as this part of Poor Law administration is concerned, the proposed Act is all right. But that the Nursing staff should be called upon to contribute towards a *general* Superannuation Fund is intolerable to the law of justice and fair-dealing. It will readily be seen if the Nurses are to share the benefits of a superannuation scheme that they must also share the contributions, but the two branches must be kept entirely separate and apart.

"Satisfied" truly suggests that a large number of the Nurses employed in Infirmarys are employed temporarily—sometimes for a few months only—and it would be manifestly unfair were they, during their short term of office, called upon to contribute to benefits in which they could never share.

On the other hand, it is obvious, if a plan be adopted whereby a certain proportion of the wages of the officials are compulsorily put aside for a Superannuation Fund, that individual exceptions cannot be made. The only feasible plan appears to be that every official of a Workhouse or Infirmary should have the necessary deduction made from their salaries, but *that the amount thus contributed should be returned when the official ceased to be connected with the Poor Law system.* This would be perfectly equitable, and would meet the requirements of those whose service in Workhouse Infirmarys is only of a temporary nature. I hope this subject will elicit the discussion on the part of the Nurses that its importance deserves.

Sincerely yours, E. G. SAUNDERS.

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