

the profession of nursing upon a legally recognised basis; and the power which an international nursing association would have in helping on this end cannot be over-estimated.

In this connection it is interesting to notice that a resolution has been sent by the Matrons' Council (England), to be laid before the annual meeting of the Society of American Superintendents of Training Schools, which is holding its Fourth Annual Convention at Baltimore as we go to press, suggesting an International Conference on Nursing. We do not doubt that such a congress would be productive of the greatest good; indeed, we can think of nothing which could be more beneficial at the present time, than an interchange of thought amongst the leaders of the nursing profession of all nations.

A NURSES' INSURANCE SCHEME.

A NEW scheme of insurance for Nurses, and apparently a very valuable one, has been issued by the Pearl Life Assurance Company; and as its invested funds amount to considerably more than £2,000,000, the stability of the Office is beyond all question. The terms which they offer to nurses are very liberal, and deserve the very careful consideration of any one desiring to make provision for her old age. Full particulars and the various tables can be obtained by writing to the Actuary of the Company at London Bridge, E.C. The example given by the Company of their system is, as we have said, well worthy of the attention of our readers, for it is as follows:—

A qualified nurse (or other person acceptable under this table) aged 25 years next birthday, may, by the payment of 10s. 3d. a quarter, assure her life in the sum of £25 (together with the surrender value of the annuity policy) against death before attaining 65 years of age, but on the attainment of the said age of 65 years the payment of premium entirely ceases, and the assured thereafter enjoys a pension of £5 a quarter for the remainder of life. If the pension is to be entered upon at an earlier age, say 50, 55, or 60, the premiums are, of course, correspondingly increased. The rates are calculated on a scale making provision for a part return in event of surrender before the annuity is entered upon:—*v. n.*, If before 3 years' premiums paid, 50 per cent. is returnable, after 3 years' 60 per cent., and after 4 years' 75 per cent., and this value is payable, with the life claim, in the event of decease at any time before the pension commences.

Nursing Politics.

EDUCATION.

DR. ROBERT BOWLES, when acting as Chairman at the Sessional Lecture of the Royal British Nurses' Association on the 22nd inst., is reported to have remarked "that the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association needed educating in view of the proposed alteration in the Nurses' Institution." Now if we may be pardoned for "making so bold," as they say in the Midlands, we are of opinion that it is Dr. Bowles, and all those who with him are attempting to force upon the trained nurse members of the association, an innovation which they consider absolutely disastrous to their interests, and to the interests of the public, who require "educating."

Is it not true that the majority of those members who are so lightly proposing to ruin the work for nurses, which the founders of the association accomplished after years of arduous labour, are persons who *have never worked in a modern nurse training school at all?* During the educational period in hospital of Dr. Outterson Wood, Dr. Bowles, Sir James Crichton-Browne, Dr. Bezly Thorne, Mrs. Dacre Craven, and their contemporaries, trained nurses as we now understand the term did not exist. The really efficient education of nurses has been evolved in the last fifteen years, and with that efficiency has also arisen the desire amongst educated nurses for professional improvement and protection.

We feel sure that the matrons who have been guiding the training of nurses during the period alluded to, will agree with us that autocratic legislation for nurses by persons who have no intimate knowledge of the methods of the modern nurse training school, is a very dangerous proceeding, and one which is sure to cause disorganisation and arouse resentment.

Our advice therefore to Dr. Bowles and those of his colleagues who are desirous of taking part in the organisation of the nursing profession, is that before making such an attempt it is their duty to take counsel with those who understand the question, and not to attempt to "educate" persons who founded their own association on definite principles for the attainment of definite results, and for which they have been steadily working for nine years.

To attempt to thrust upon trained and experienced nurses the principle that nursing education can be made efficient without a general basis of knowledge gained in the wards of a general hospital, is quite hopeless, and we

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)