

Annotations.**ROYAL NATIONAL PENSION FUND FOR NURSES.**

THE annual meeting of this society, of which H.R.H. the Princess of Wales is the President, was held at 28, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C., on Thursday, the 11th inst., Mr. Walter H. Burns, the chairman, presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report, the chairman remarked that the year, like the previous one, had not been very eventful, except as a record of continued prosperity. The policies issued showed a large increase over the average of preceding years—over 800 nurses having entered the fund during 1896. The total invested funds rose from £256,000 to £311,000, exclusive of the funds of the Benevolent branch, and the cash at bankers, &c. The value of the securities held by the fund is considerably above the cost in the books. Sick pay was distributed to the extent of £1,158 against £909 in the previous year. With regard to the Benevolent branch, the chairman quoted a letter which he had received from the Princess of Wales when acknowledging the result of the recent collection made by the nurses of the Pension Fund. The Princess stated that the first act of the Prince of Wales on New Year's Day was to present her, as President, with the munificent offering from the nurses of the Pension Fund to the Junius S. Morgan Benevolent Fund, and she felt that the longest reign in English history could not have been more auspiciously inaugurated than by the voluntary contributions of the members of the same association to their sick and suffering sisters. The chairman mentioned that at a former meeting of the nurses at Marlborough House he had ventured to predict that within 20 years of its foundation the accumulated fund of all kinds would reach £1,000,000 sterling, a sum which then seemed to many an extravagant estimate, but in view of the fact that the funds of the society are accumulating at the rate of over £60,000 a year, it seemed quite safe to expect that at the end of the next ten years the figures predicted will have been reached.

THE DUFFERIN FUND.

THE annual meeting of the Dufferin Fund was lately held in Calcutta, the Viceroy, Lord Elgin, presiding. The report shows that over 1,300,000 women have been treated in the hospitals connected with the fund—or more than double the number treated in 1893. The committee state that the progress made proves that the people of India regard the efforts of the association for affording medical aid to women, with sympathy, and ever-increasing interest in

its success. Over 20 lakhs have been spent in founding hospitals, while 14 lakhs have been invested. The income during last year exceeded two lakhs. The provincial reports show that the prejudice against the medical treatment of purdah women is dying out.

The Viceroy took occasion to allude to the famine, and concluded his speech as follows:—

“The Patron of our association is the Patron of the Famine Relief Fund. I have received many letters from the Queen-Empress, written with her own hand, which I can only describe as overflowing with sympathy. It is Her Majesty's command that I should miss no opportunity of declaring in public the distress and grief caused to her by the suffering of her Indian subjects. I am sure that there is no one who doubts that. I hope that no one here will think that I have transgressed by taking advantage of this opportunity for carrying out Her Majesty's orders.”

THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND.

THIS Society has for some years past been doing much to raise the standard of education of asylum attendants, by holding periodical examinations; and it is doing excellent work, although we could wish to see no Certificate in Nursing granted by the Society, excepting to those attendants who, before special training amongst the insane, had passed through a specified period of training in nursing the sick in a general hospital. Such candidates, after examination, to be awarded a certificate of mental nursing. This would still further raise the standard of knowledge required from all persons entrusted with the care of the sick insane; and of course all persons to whom such a certificate was granted would be eligible for Registration by the Royal British Nurses' Association. The next examination of the Medico-Psychological Association is to take place on May 3rd, and candidates should obtain from the Registrar, Dr. Spence, Burntwood Asylum, Lichfield, a schedule, to be filled up, signed, and returned to him at least four weeks before the date of the examination.

“THE CHILDREN'S SALON.”

AN effort is being made throughout the country to raise a children's tribute towards a fund for the Queen's Jubilee Nursing Institute. The fund has already reached the sum of £30,000. Through the medium of “The Children's Salon,” young people are being asked to take collecting cards for the purpose, and a lecture, entitled “The Children's Story of the Queen's Reign,” will be given in many of the chief provincial towns.

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