

development are to be found in work, and that every highly educated woman, who has no personal claims on her ability and time, will naturally aspire to work for the amelioration of her race. It must be borne in mind, too, when discussing woman's fitness for a public position, that she is, to a great extent, forced into it by the fact that she represents a much larger proportion of the population than man. Consequently, there are many duties which, if the sexes were equal in number, would naturally fall to man's lot that must now be entrusted to women." With regard to County Councils, Lady Sandhurst is of opinion that they will provide a large field for woman's influence. "Taking the duties which will devolve on these new bodies into consideration," she says, "who are more fit than women to look after the welfare of pauper lunatics, to inspect industrial schools, to study the best remedy for the baby farming evil, to keep watch over music halls and dancing saloons, to carry out the Wild Birds' Preservation Act, to organise a proper system of district sanitation, and even to see that slaughter-houses are not where they should not be, and that cruelty is not practised within their walls? A womanly spirit is necessary in such a work as this, and since the womanly spirit is not generally to be found in man, let it be found by all means side by side with man."

CORRESPONDENCE

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

- *.* We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by Correspondents. Brevity and conciseness will have first consideration. See Notices.
- *.* British Nurses' Association.—We are requested to state that Miss Wood (Secretary) will be at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., daily, from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), to see Nurses or others who may wish to make inquiries; also that annual subscriptions became due on January 1, and that early payment of these will save much trouble to the Secretary and much expense to the Association.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I am glad to see, in your Editorial of the 7th inst., that you "are about to publish the rates at which a leading London insurance company is prepared to grant annuities to Nurses," and like business and just men, that they will take into consideration the fact that the lives of Nurses "are below the average of their sex in length." This well known fact is being strenuously denied by the advocates of the "National Pension Fund," by way of excuse for the very large premiums which Nurses who join it are expected to pay. We are told on the contrary, that some "society finds that Trained Nurses who, before old age, have the prospect of a pension, and in old age realise that

prospect, live as a rule to very advanced ages, and greatly enjoy the repose, quiet and security of their declining years." Having worked as a Nurse for twenty years, and being now upwards of forty-five years of age, I can only say that two-thirds of my contemporaries have been compelled, through failing health, to give up sick nursing before they have reached my age, and I do not think that even the "prospect of a pension" of five shillings a week in old age, for which they would have to pay so heavily in youth as to deny themselves necessities, would have been a "prospect" likely to charm away all the ills which "flesh is heir to." Mr. Fatkin's letters have quite convinced the Nursing Staff in this Hospital, that so long as the managers of the Pension Fund are unable to pay them 2½ per cent. on their savings without vague promises of bonuses from the public (which may never be contributed), there must be something radically wrong in the affair, and that the "woollen stocking" is safer.—I am, yours truly,

A YORKSHIRE NURSE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—While agreeing most strongly with all you say in the Editorial in the *Nursing Record* of January 24, I should on one point like to go still further. Beyond the good food, properly cooked, for which you plead, I would urge that a certain proportion of tempting food should be supplied in Hospitals to Nurses.

Doing this would involve extra care and trouble on the part of the Housekeeper, acting under the full sanction and consent of the Matron; but I contend, that where a sufficient amount of good meat, vegetables, groceries and fruit, when cheap, is supplied to the Nurses' table, this may be done without any increased cost to the Hospital. There is a sameness in even good food plainly cooked, week after week, and month after month; and the uncertainty of not knowing what variety will be provided, will be an inducement to eat it when it comes.

When we consider the long hours of work, much of it heavy—and to a good Nurse, who cares for her patients, mentally as well as physically trying—it is not much to be wondered at if she comes to the table feeling indisposed to eat, unless her appetite is tempted, and certainly it is neither good for her or her work, that she should return to it without the rest and change that a proper meal, well cooked and temptingly served, would give her. Another point I would make is, that while encouraging bright, happy conversation on outside subjects, all mention of Hospital matters should be rigorously excluded from the dinner table. This last may seem a small thing, but I think it is not. Some people can hear anything without it affecting them; whereas others, by a much smaller allusion, would be made quite unable to eat. Hospitals do not train Nurses for the pleasure of training them, but for the use they will be to the Hospitals and the public when trained. When, after a considerable expenditure of care and teaching, the raw Probationer has been turned into the Trained Nurse, she possesses a certain definite value.

Nothing is so expensive as illness; therefore, looking at the matter as a question of utility as well as of humanity, Nurses should be given food that they can

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