

able salaries for London managers and other officials. With reference to Mr. Clifford's statement that I "decline to recognise the mutual principle," I say that I do recognise it under the old title of "the confidence trick." The National Pension Fund managers say to the Nurses, "Open your pockets, subscribe your money, close your reasoning powers, ask no questions, and see what we will give you"—after the management have taken what they require for working expenses. This is in effect the conclusion of the *Lancet*, if I read and construe aright the language of its articles on the subject. And this is really the point of the whole matter.

Let the promoters of the National Pension Fund show Nurses that they are to receive at least as good a return for their hard-earned earnings as they can get from other good existing offices before they pose before the public as philanthropists. It is significant that neither Mr. Clifford nor his actuary attempts to grapple with the comparison which I gave in your issue of the 18th inst. of the amounts payable under their fund and those required by the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company.

I could, for my own part, select no better amusement than to have Mr. Clifford and his actuary before the present Chancellor of the Exchequer for a short space of time, to prove that the Hospital Nurses of this country would, in the aggregate, receive more interest for their money, independent of charity, by investing their savings in Consols at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest than is offered to them by the tables of the National Pension Fund.

I should, in conclusion, like to know what are the "reasons not far to seek" suggested by Mr. Clifford for my non-existent animus against his society.—Yours faithfully,

THOMAS FATKIN.

Leeds, 24th January, 1889.

NURSING ECHOES.

* * * *Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

ONE cannot wonder at the phenomenal success of the British Nurses' Association, when one sees the energy and powers of organization with which it is being conducted. These were well exemplified last Friday. The Medical Society's Rooms, I am told, usually provide sitting accommodation for about eighty people, but by altering the arrangement of the forms, and providing extra chairs, there was not the least crowding nor inconvenience, although I am told there were about one hundred and twenty Nurses, and about half-a-dozen Doctors, present at the meeting. Punctually at eight o'clock Mr. Brudenell Carter took the chair. The brief minutes of the last meeting were read and signed, and then Mrs. Bedford Fenwick read the paper upon "The Matron," which has been so eagerly looked forward to, and which, I believe,

will appear in our columns this week. It was listened to in profound silence, and concluded amidst an enthusiastic outburst of clapping.

I AM told that our representative obtained a verbatim report of the discussion which followed the paper, so I suppose that I need only briefly describe it. Miss Homersham's definition of Probationers as "generally middle-aged" caused considerable amusement, which was increased by the next speaker, who admitted the soft impeachment in her own case, and described them as "naughty children." But the palm undoubtedly was carried off by Miss Helen Foggo-Thomson, whose remarks caused laughter, renewed again and again. She spoke fluently and well, but after a few words upon the Matron, glided off to the subject of paying Probationers, next to the appointment of Hospital Sisters, and then to the vagaries of Private Nurses. She apologised for this discursiveness—quite unnecessarily—upon the ground that she might not be in London for long, and wished to state her views on the matter when she had the opportunity. I sincerely hope Miss Foggo-Thomson will be present and will speak at future meetings, for however interesting a paper may be, more than half its profit lies in the discussion which it evokes; and we evidently need a few speakers like this lady to encourage others to state their opinions.

OF course there could be no real criticism upon a paper by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. Her practical knowledge of Nursing, in all its branches and every grade, is so extensive, and her literary powers are so great, that it would be difficult indeed to find a flaw in any facts or reasoning which she advanced. By-the-by, there was a very interesting article again last week from her pen in *The Queen*, entitled "The Life of a Nurse," and giving a most succinct account of the work done by every class in the Nursing world. I am not surprised to hear that this article, and its predecessor—to which I called attention a fortnight ago—have attracted very wide attention to the subject, and enlightened hundreds of people as to what Nursing really is—not what it is imagined to be.

MISS WOOD's chair at the meeting, as Secretary, was vacant, and I heard that she was away on a tour in the West of England, drawing attention to the aims and ideas of the Association at the Hospitals in Bournemouth, Plymouth, Exeter, and Bristol. I hope we shall, in due time, receive, and be able to give, reports of these meetings. Meanwhile the Association, I hear, continues to increase by leaps and bounds, consolidating its strength as it grows,

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