

ST. JOHN'S HOUSE has from its foundation given pensions to those nurses who have served the house for twelve years, and who are certificated as disabled, and to all nurses over the age of fifty who have served the Institution for twenty years. Twenty-six pounds is the maximum pension. At present eleven nurses are in receipt of pensions. The total capital funds amount to £3,529 os. 6d., and it is estimated that £3,000 more is required to place the fund upon a firm financial footing. The Council is appealing for donations to the fund, as a memorial of its Jubilee year. We hope that many of those who have reason to be grateful to the nurses of the House for the skill and devotion with which they have cared for them in times of sickness, will show their appreciation of these services by responding to the appeal of the Council.

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MISS GIBSON, Matron of the Birmingham Infirmary, threw out a suggestion for the nursing of the smaller infirmaries in a paper, "Nursing in Workhouses," read before the West Midland Poor Law Conference recently held at Malvern. The proverbial difficulty of obtaining suitable nurses for the smaller workhouse infirmaries, might, she thought, be met by the formation of a Workhouse Council having its head quarters in London. The candidates might be chosen by the lady guardians, and sent for training to a large infirmary, the board, whom they were subsequently to serve, paying for their training on condition that they guaranteed to serve the board for five years when trained. The suggestion is interesting as showing a growing tendency in nursing organization for centralization.

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One always likes to hear of the appreciation of good work; and the resignation of Nurse Lyon, who, since the inception of the Brechin Branch of the Victoria Jubilee Nurses' Institute, has been in residence at Brechin, has been received with general regret. It is now about five and a half years since Nurse Lyon went to Brechin on her errand of mercy, and the kindness and tact with which she went about her work gained her the respect and esteem of all. Devoted to her work, she was unwearied in her efforts to alleviate suffering and pain, and at whatever hour the call on her services came she was ever ready to respond. Her removal from Brechin will prove a public loss.

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PRIVATE nurses who have, in the course of their duties, nursed patients at sea, will welcome the suggestion, now being supported by the *Lancet*, that in future the plans of proposed vessels shall be submitted to some authority capable of advising, and to some extent insisting, upon adequate

ventilation, drainage, and lavatory arrangements, as well as proper hospital accommodation.

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It is possible by paying something considerably over first-class fares, to obtain a cabin in which a patient may be made fairly comfortable by a capable nurse, possessed of some ingenuity. But the position of a patient, who has not secured the services of a nurse, is, for the most part, terrible indeed, the discomfort being of course intensified if the sick person is unable to pay for first-class accommodation. Imagine for instance, a passenger suffering from dysentery, on his way home from India in May or June. Such a passenger will, after lying in his berth at Aden, under a porthole, while the ship is coaling, be so entirely covered by fine coal dust, as to be almost unrecognizable. In the heat of the Red Sea he will be dependent upon the services of busy stewards, these being rendered, or not rendered, according to the good nature of the individual steward, or the length of the purse of the unfortunate passenger. It is not too much to assert that many lives are lost at sea, which might be saved, if there were adequate provision for the nursing of the sick.

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THE chief objection to such provision being made is, no doubt, the dislike felt by steamship companies to carrying sick people at all. The other passengers do not like it, they say. It depresses them; it interferes also with the sports, the dances, the concerts, and the continual round of gaieties and flirtations, which form the usual occupation of the passengers on board an ocean steamer. Not unfrequently it is urged by the authorities that the sick person shall be put ashore if the ship goes into port. But, at the same time, a sea voyage is sometimes the thread upon which the life or death of a patient hangs, and it is surely not unreasonable to ask that our mail steamers, at least, shall have adequate hospital accommodation, and shall carry trained nurses, as well as doctors.

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AGAIN, if provision for sick passengers is so inadequate, what is the fate of such of the crew as "go sick?" Those who have ever visited those parts of a ship where the crew are accommodated, will understand that humanity demands that in sickness, if not in health, they shall have the fresh air and light which it is impossible for them to obtain under existing arrangements, and we hope that the Government will henceforth require a minimum amount of hospital accommodation in the construction of new vessels.

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A Loan Exhibition and Sale of Work has been organised by the Nurses' Missionary Association in connection with the Bi-Centenary of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and will be

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