

tributions which, after deducting the expenses of the organisation, leave an amount sufficient to buy a Post Office annuity, and clear the Fund of all further responsibility and trouble.

Is not this the essence of this wonderful scheme, that it has taken this practical man of business many years of his life to work out?

Sir Henry admitted that he was presenting his paper to a body of men, many of whom were "masters of facts and figures," and it is to be hoped that the severe criticism which followed the reading will tend to limit the posturings of self-dubbed financial and actuarial experts."

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WE have always claimed that a hodge podge of charity and business is not Finance, and had not the National Pension Fund been founded on donations, and bolstered up with the subscriptions of the public, it would have collapsed long ago. As it is, we consider that the Council of the Fund should long ago have reduced the premiums paid by the nurses for these so-called "pensions," and we have no doubt that in the end they will have to do so. At the same time we warmly advocate any society which will impress the necessity for thrift upon members of the nursing profession, for even if they are made to pay through the nose for it, it is better than that their earnings should dribble through their fingers and thus be wasted.

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STUDENTS' Hospital Journals have their uses, and *St. George's Gazette* does well to bring to the notice of the authorities the poverty of the land in matters medical. As this institution is most generously supported by the public, its equipment in every department ought to be above reproach. Says the *Gazette* :

"A suggestion, which was originally made in these columns, that sterilisers should be provided for each of the Surgeries has, we are glad to see, been carried out. The want of adequate means for the proper cleansing of instruments had long been felt and the new sterilisers are greatly appreciated on the Surgical side."

"Our postal bag also contains many arguments for the purchase by the hospital of a fluorescent screen. This would obviate much of the expense and delay of our present system of using Röntgen's rays, and would also be of service in those cases which are at present not considered to justify the outlay of a guinea."

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WE hope shortly to observe that the *Students Gazette* will recommend the removal of the wicker baskets for patient's clothes which from time immemorial have found a place under each patient's bed, and which are nothing more nor less than dangerous dust traps, of an obsolete type. We called attention to these "nursing atrocities" some months ago, we fear without result, as a foreign medical woman who lately visited the wards of

St. George's Hospital was appalled at the sight of "ces habitations des germes."

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"ASSISTANT" writes in the *Gazette* :—

"I should like to make a proposal, which I feel sure only requires to be brought before the notice of the authorities to become *un fait accompli*. I would suggest that a complete anæsthetic apparatus be provided, and kept in the Belgrave, for exclusive use in the wards, while the present Surgery one be reserved entirely for casualty operations in the two surgeries. The latter at present is the only apparatus in the Hospital proper, outside the theatres and the Burton, and it happens at times that patients are needlessly kept waiting for perhaps an hour while the surgery "Clover" is being used in the wards. Those in charge of the Surgeries would greatly appreciate having an apparatus always at hand, and being saved the trouble of seeking the tongue forceps in one corner of the Hospital, and the gag in another."

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THE Committee of the Worcester Infirmary have done well to raise the salaries of their Sisters and nurses, and, in consultation with their Matron, to propose that for the future six Sisters should start at £27 instead of £25, and have a yearly increase of £1 until £32 was reached: the night sister should receive an increase of £1 until £35 was reached; the theatre sister should receive £2 a year extra; the accident sister £1 a year extra; and the nurse in charge of the Eye Hospital £2 a year extra. It was conceded that a good deal of difficulty was experienced in getting a desirable nurse at the present low salary—£25.

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LAST week we expressed our satisfaction at learning that medical men were advising County Nursing Associations of the dangers to lying-in women in being cared for by nurses in attendance on patients suffering from general diseases, and we regret much to gather from the annual report of the Royston Nursing Association that this dangerous practice is permitted.

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THE report says :—

"During 1897-8, 44 cases have been nursed, as against 32 the previous year, to which 1,231 visits have been paid, as against 1,131 in 1896-7. These cases include cancer, bronchitis, heart disease, pneumonia, abscesses, rheumatism, and several mid-wifery, monthly, surgical and chronic cases. They feel that in Nurse Kent they have an excellent Nurse, suited in every way to the requirements of the town. All that is wanted is an increased sphere of work.

They would like all kind friends to remember.

1. That the services of the Nurse are free to the Sick Poor in illness.

2. That the services of the Nurse are free in confinement cases, where she would nurse under a doctor.

(The above only applies to those whose rental is £10 and under; a small fee is required when the rental is higher.)

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