

NURSES will, therefore, not be greatly surprised to learn that for some time past Mr. Editor has had in hand a scheme which has now assumed workable proportions, and by which one of the wealthiest associations in the United Kingdom will be able to give Nurses annuities, or so-called pensions, at rates very much below those of the National Pension Fund. I am told that the prospectus and tables will be issued shortly, and all particulars given. Those who wish to have them should apply to the Editor, who has been personally co-operating with the actuary of the association in question in the getting out of a series of tables most likely to prove serviceable to those immediately concerned.

I AM sorry to hear that poor Mrs. Duyck has again been unsuccessful in obtaining the annuity from the British Home for Incurables, but difficult as it is to attain what she requires, perseverance and patience will surely eventually secure to her that which she has already worked hard for. One consolation out of it all is the marked growth of the quantity of votes recorded for her. The first election, May, 1888, Mrs. Duyck polled 29; second election, November of the same year, 95; third election, May, 1889, 110; fourth election, on the fourteenth instant, 97. Total, 331.

ALREADY several competitors have sent in their manuscripts in respect to the Prize Essay Competition, as announced in the Notices column. I would respectfully suggest to all those who intend competing, to send in their essays if possible before the date mentioned, and not leave them until the very last moment, as did several on the last occasion, thus very narrowly escaping disqualification.

AND this reminds me that the Prize Essay Editors have brought down the list of names of those competing in the last competition to *five*, and which are—Miss Mary Sheehy, Miss Helen Dunn, Miss Emily Louisa Symonds, Miss Maude Ingham, and Miss Ellen Mary Green. The contest has been a particularly severe one, and the essays sent in so much of equal merit, that the judges had a difficult task before them to find out and adjudicate upon the best, which will of course be one of the above-mentioned five.

I AM glad, for many reasons, to notice a decidedly growing appreciation of these Essay Competitions and the increase in the number of competitors.

I AM glad to hear that, in order to meet the great demands for the admission of female patients to the St. Raphael's Hospital and Home for Con-

sumptives, Worthing, it is proposed to set about another ward for the accommodation of women and girls, and any help towards accomplishing this will be gratefully welcomed by Mrs. J. St. A. Horton, the Hon. Secretary.

THE Editor asks me to mention in these columns that he will deem it a favour to receive from such of those Institutes taking Probationers and employing Nurses, copies of rules, applications, &c., as he may be able to be of considerable service to them in recommending many of the private applicants who seek for information on these points.

I HEAR that Miss Carvossa has just been appointed Matron of Salisbury Infirmary.

DR. HARRIS, the Medical Superintendent of the St. George's-in-the-East Infirmary, recently applied for the sanction of the Board to his proposition that the Nurses on the Day Staff should be allowed from two till five o'clock in the afternoon instead of leave in the evening. I am very glad to hear that this was granted, the Guardians holding the application to be a very reasonable one, and I am sure Dr. Harris will receive many grateful thanks for his timely interest in bringing such a matter forward. A Union Infirmary Nurse's life, as a rule, is not a too particularly happy one.

S. G.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

YOUNG LADY ASSISTANTS.

YOUNG ladies, as they are nominated in the advertisements, are fond now of turning to "business" when on the look out for employment, and seek to find a solution of the question, How to live, by taking their stand behind the counter in one of those mammoth establishments which have sprung up like banyan trees of late years, and not to those small shops where the family attend to the business, with the help of one, or perhaps two, paid helpers. Some of these large houses (notably, Messrs. Marshall and Snelgrove, and Messrs. Debenham and Freebody) are very kind to their employées, and provide for them every comfort, even as far as to the luxuries of a piano, library, &c. Bright little dances are got up "between ourselves," ourselves numbering occasionally three figures. Verily there is the world of "behind the counter" as well as the world of fashion and the world of art; and, alas! as in the great world, there are the good and the bad, the tares and the wheat intermingled therein, and the same jealousy

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