

of the fabric and renewal of the furniture of the Institution. It would never fall into such a state of disrepair as it unfortunately has done, and the necessity for making so extensive a demand upon its finances would never arise.

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"THE increased cost of diet from £318 in 1887 to £399 in 1889 calls for the following remarks:—The cost per head is greater; as has been explained, that increased cost is not nearly so great as might have been expected from the increased cost of provisions. The sub-committee desire to say that the evidence of good management and economy which they have had brought before their notice during this enquiry has convinced them that no reduction of expenses in this department can be brought about except by a reduction in the number of the inmates of the institution. In fact, it is a matter for the careful consideration of the House Committee whether, upon the present income of the Infirmary, they can continue to admit in the future so large a number of in-patients as they have admitted during the past year. The sub-committee desire to say that the increased outlay upon coal has been due to the increase in the cost of coal per ton, and not to increased consumption. While your sub-committee do not feel justified in making any remarks upon the variation in the outlay upon drugs, they wish to call the attention of the House Committee to the decrease in the sum paid as wages. Your sub-committee would take this opportunity of drawing the attention of the House Committee to the fact that there has been a steady and continued falling off in the annual subscriptions and donations to the funds of the institution, while the number of patients has increased from 552 in 1885 to 973 in 1889."

* * *

I REGRET to have to record the death (on January 27, at Derby) of Nurse Gwendoline Ashley, who, through her untiring attendance on a patient suffering with scarlet fever, contracted the disease herself. Rheumatic fever followed, which caused Miss Ashley a lingering illness of nine months' duration.

S. G.

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THE CRUELTY OF ADVERSITY.—That is the cruellest part of adversity; it is always applying the test to our fellow-creatures, and compelling us to try them. If only we might go on to the end trusting and believing in those we love without ever having to test them.

DEATH is but the line at which the little stream of life merges into the great ocean of eternity. Death is but the turning point in the endless path of our existence.

COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY. SIXTEENTH COMPETITION.

A Book of the value of One Guinea will be awarded for an Essay upon the following subject:—

"DESCRIBE THE BEST MANNER IN WHICH A KITCHEN SHOULD BE FITTED UP SUITABLE FOR THE STAFF AND PATIENTS IN A HOSPITAL OR HOME OF TWENTY BEDS, THE UTENSILS REQUIRED, THE MAKERS' NAMES AND APPROXIMATE COST OF THEM, AND MENTION EVERY DETAIL CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR THE SMOOTH AND PROPER CONDUCT OF SUCH KITCHEN."

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RULES.

1.—Contributions must reach the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, addressed as follows:—"Prize Essay Competition, THE NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.," not later than Thursday, February 13, 1890.

2.—Manuscript must be written distinctly in ink and on one side of the paper only, upon not less than 24 nor more than 48 pages of ordinary-sized ruled sermon paper. The pages must be numbered and fastened together.

3.—The real and full name and address (stating whether Miss or Mrs.) of the Competitor must be inscribed on the back of each contribution, and notification of which Hospital or Institution the Competitor has been or is attached to.

4.—Trained Nurses or those personally associated with Nursing work only allowed to compete.

The decision of the Prize Essay Editor to be final, and any infringement of the above Rules will be considered a disqualification.

NOTICE.—The Prize Essay Editor will not undertake to return MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope. In no case must manuscripts be rolled up when sent by post; they must be folded.

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"NURSING RECORD" BENEVOLENT FUND.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

WE want to assist, by the united efforts of the readers of the *Nursing Record*, Trained Nurses who may be in need of temporary or permanent aid, and for this purpose donations, whether small or large, will be thankfully received, as the Fund has already many demands made upon it.

HELP WANTED HERE ALSO.

Mrs. Sarah Duyck, aged 48, is a widow, and has broken her leg so badly, that she will probably be a cripple for the rest of her life, besides dislocating one shoulder some years ago, so that she is even unable to use her crutches for long at a time.

Mrs. Duyck wishes to obtain an annuity of £20 a year from the British Home for Incurables. To do this at least 1,000 votes must be procured from subscribers to the Institution. Lists of subscribers can be obtained by sending eight stamps to the offices, 73, Cheapside, E.C.

Will every reader of this journal please do what she or he can to obtain votes for this sad case—to assist, in however small a measure, to bear another's burden? Such help will be gratefully welcomed by the Editor, *Nursing Record*, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., and all subscriptions, &c., will be duly acknowledged.

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