

as probationer in the wards, 18 months as staff nurse, the fourth year to be spent in one ward with responsibility for the management in the Sister's absence. The certificate to be given after examination at the expiration of the third year's work.

Since last June, £388 has been collected by seventeen members of the League for the new Nurses' Home Fund, an anonymous benefactor contributing £50.

The Journal concludes with a complete list of the 700 members of the League.

Mr. Harold Boulton, whom the Prince of Wales as Grand Prior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, has deputed to proceed to Canada as Special Hon. Commissioner, to assist in the reorganisation of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in the Dominion, has left for Ottawa. Mr. Boulton has been invited by the Earl and Countess of Dudley to go on to Australia to assist them in the promotion of a district nursing scheme for the Commonwealth on the lines of the Queen's Jubilee Nurses in this country, and the Victorian Nurses' Order in Canada.

A young hospital nurse, who speaks French and German, and who has lost her appointment through her courageous work for the women's suffrage cause, desires to obtain an appointment as travelling nurse attendant to an invalid or child. Communications should be addressed, in the first instance, to Mrs. Tuke, Hon. Secretary, W.S.P.U., 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

It is not improbable that without care there will be an increased amount of disease in country villages owing to the number of old people attempting to live on their five shillings a week pensions. Care will certainly have to be taken that these old people are kept clean, and five shillings a week leaves no margin for such attendance.

It is interesting to note that in making an application to the St. Asaph Board of Guardians for an increased grant in aid of the funds for the Abergele and Pensarn District Nursing Association, Mrs. Johnson, the hon. secretary, pointed out that there was at the present time a greater call upon the services of the nurse among the old people than had previously been the case. The reason was that since the granting of old age pensions aged people retained their homes for longer periods than formerly, and therefore needed more attention from the nurse. The Board, however, declined the ap-

plication on the ground that if their grant of £2 2s. to the Abergele Association were increased it would be necessary to increase the grants to the other associations in the union, which were of similar amount.

The American National Red Cross has elected a very representative Committee, upon which we find the well known names of Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, Mrs. Hampton Robb, Miss Jane Delano, Miss Georgia M. Nevins, Miss Sophia F. Palmer, Miss Anna C. Maxwell, and Mrs. Harriet Camp Lounsbury. This Committee will, no doubt, in the future popularise military nursing somewhat on the lines of our Territorial Force Nursing Service.

In this month's *American Journal of Nursing* an opportune little article on Affiliation, by Miss Amy M. Hilliard, R.N., appears, in which she writes that "there can be no question of the ultimate benefit of affiliation to schools which cannot give adequate practical instruction without it, but such a school, if it desires to give a three years' course, will be confronted with the following problems," which she enumerates. Miss Hilliard concludes: "It would seem that the introduction of pupils from one school into another for so long a time (as a year) would interfere with necessary discipline, but our two and a half years' experience with the same affiliations has been devoid of anything approaching unpleasantness or friction between pupils of both schools. In fact, the home-coming pupils are, by their enthusiasm, an inspiration to the others."

This is encouraging to special hospitals, some of which fear a system of registration of nurses may interfere with their curriculum. We, on the other hand, have always hoped it would benefit them, by including them in a co-operative system of nurse training.

Miss Edith Woods sends to the *Queen* from Cape Town an account of Sister Bessie Smythe's amazing journey and work across Africa. It is nearly 30 years since, as a bright young Irish girl, she began her nursing career in Kimberley. She was keen, adventurous, and hardy. In 1898, when the severe small-pox epidemic broke out in the Transvaal, it was she who took charge of the lazaretto in Pretoria—the only woman in that grim and dreadful place. She got into camp, arranged the wards and the beds, and set to work to train a number of awkward Kaffirs as orderly boys, a task which she carried out to perfection. For four months she lived in that camp and saw the danger through.

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