

person, and also in different institutions. For the purpose of superannuation a deduction of 2 per cent. is made from the gross salary—that is, salary and emoluments.

A superannuation allowance is awarded in cases of—

(1) Incapacity from performing the duties of her office by reason of permanent ill-health, provided that the length of service has reached 10 years.

(2) Attainment of full 60 years, together with an aggregate service of 40 years.

(3) Attainment of full age of retirement, 65 years.

The pension is reckoned as follows :

One-sixtieth part of the value of the average salary and emoluments during the last five years of office multiplied by length of service, the maximum being two-thirds of the annual value of the appointment for the preceding five years.

Under the Act of 1897 nurses may contract out. Many of the nurses have no intention of remaining in the Service. They are given the option of contracting out within two months of the date of appointment, and having once contracted out the decision remains irrevocable. Should a nurse decide to contribute to the scheme and afterwards leave the Poor Law service, her contributions are not returned to her; but in the event of again taking a position in Poor Law, the continuity of service would not be broken, though, of course, only the actual time spent in the Service would be reckoned.

It will be clear from the foregoing remarks that substantial advantages accrue from the association of State control with Hospital administration. There is at present in the Poor Law Nursing world a scheme of pensions and a dependence on a higher central authority entirely removed from any local influence, the advantage of which all must admit.

Another point which I think worthy of consideration is that at the present time many hospitals have their field of usefulness curtailed owing to the drying up of the sources of charity, and although we as a nation have been proud, and justly proud, of the voluntary nature of our hospitals, it would be unwise to let a matter of sentiment curtail the utility of a given institution. State aid, by freeing such institution from financial embarrassment, would enable it to fulfil to the utmost the moral obligations of the nation.

I cannot but think that anything which benefits the hospitals would in equal measure benefit the Nursing Profession.

In conclusion, I would suggest that much could be done both at the present and for the future if Matrons in such a meeting as this would decide for themselves what powers they would allocate to their office.

## NURSING HANDICRAFT AND PRIZES.

We announced last week that THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING had consented to organize a Section at the forthcoming Exhibition in connection with the Nursing and Midwifery Conference, to be held at the Horticultural Hall, London, from April 23rd to 26th, 1912.

We have decided that our Section shall deal with "Nursing Handicraft"—that is, a practical presentment of what the hand can do for the relief of suffering. Space is limited, which will necessitate a wise discrimination in the selection of exhibits, so the three prizes will be awarded for the most complete little exhibit of Dressings and Appliances used in the following departments :—

### TABLE I.

Maternity Nursing.

### TABLE II.

The Head, including the Eye, Ear, Nose, Mouth, and Throat.

### TABLE III.

The Thorax. The Heart and Lungs.

### TABLE IV.

The Abdomen. The Digestive Tract, Kidneys, and Bladder.

### TABLE V.

Gynæcological Nursing.

### TABLE VI.

Splints and Bandages.

It must be understood that this Section is not to include anything which has not been manipulated by the Nurse.

The Prizes will be awarded for the three most complete and finished Sections upon the recommendation of nursing experts who are not themselves exhibitors.

Nurses or Societies of Nurses who desire to compete must enter their names, stating Section, on or before February 15th, 1912.

### PRIZES.

First Prize	...	...	£7	7	0
Second Prize	...	...	4	4	0
Third Prize	...	...	2	2	0

Three Consolation Prizes of £1 1s. each.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)