

"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.

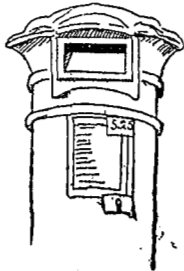
HELP WANTED HERE ALSO.

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.

HABITS of neatness are partly natural and partly acquired. It should be the aim of every father and mother to teach neatness to their children, and insist upon it.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Notes, Queries &c.)

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

We shall be happy to answer, as far as we can, all questions submitted to us.

Communications, &c., not noticed in our present number will receive attention when space permits.

VOTING AND CANVASSING IN LONDON CHARITIES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—On behalf of the Committee of this Society, I trust that you will once more allow me to call the attention of the public to the voting and canvassing system adopted by some of the principal London charities, in the hope that the bene-

volent persons who support these noble Institutions may seriously reflect during the vacation on the hardships inflicted on the deserving poor by the present mode of election, and endeavour to influence the committees of the charities to which they subscribe to alter their rules.

It is not denied that the voting system causes great delay and anxiety to the poor candidates, nor is it disputed that the system favours those with influential friends, who can buy votes, and thus exclude those less fortunately placed. It is also admitted by those who support the voting charities, that the expenses of canvassing are heavier than the poor can afford, and that the whole system tends to convert candidates into beggars. There is no doubt that public opinion is growing very adverse to election by subscribers' votes, and that the funds of voting charities are suffering in consequence. Many excellent Institutions in London, and nearly all in the provincial towns, do not find it necessary to have either voting or canvassing, their committees investigating the cases, and giving the benefits to the most needy and deserving. This is the principle advocated by this association, and it is the only one which in a few years will meet with public support. We hear of no complaints against the non-voting Institutions, and their financial position is as sound as that of those charities which fancy that it is necessary to their existence that candidates should be employed as touts to get in new subscriptions. Some of the voting charities have recently made a modification of their rules, which might be well imitated by the others. One charity now elects by rotation at each election the six candidates who have been the longest on the list, a course which prevents any from ultimately failing. In some other Institutions the committees solicit on the voting lists the votes of the subscribers for administration, and this places so many votes in the hands of the executive, that they can themselves elect the most deserving candidates. Another excellent modification recently adopted is for the committees to choose a number of urgent cases, and print their names on the voting lists as those most deserving of support. However much opinions may differ on other matters, there can be no reasonable doubt that all the voting charities should reduce the number of candidates admitted on the voting lists to not more than double the number of vacancies, the present long lists inducing a large number of needy persons to embark in a struggle which in most cases lasts for some years, and in many ultimately ends in disappointment. Any system is better than the present one, and, therefore, any modification will be appreciated by the public.

It is to be hoped that before long the committees of the voting charities will see their way to abolish voting and canvassing in all their forms, and take upon themselves to elect, after a careful comparison of the relative merits of the candidates, those who are really the most deserving of the benefits of the charities.—I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

J. A. Dow,
Secretary Charity Voting Reform Association,
30, Charing Cross, 3rd Sept., 1890.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—With reference to the correspondence, principally anonymous, since inserted in the *Daily News*, commenting on supposititious and ridiculous charges alleged to have been brought against the London Hospital before the Committee of the House of Lords, will you kindly allow me to say that on reading the original article on "Over-Worked Nurses" in the issue of July 31, in which I was personally alluded to, my brother wrote to the Editor, specifying the very grave charges actually made? He received the following reply:—

"Daily News Office, August 1, 1890.

The Editor presents his compliments and writes to say

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