

Fund for Nurses is progressing apace; that one wealthy lady has advanced the money to buy a freehold house at Brighton; and that a large sum has been received towards the endowment; while "an ex-Sister of a metropolitan Hospital, who knows from personal experience the value such a scheme would prove to Nurses, has offered £50 a year, provided that an additional £200 a year can be raised in annual subscriptions by the end of this year," and that this last amount will, it is expected, be very shortly obtained. The anonymous letter writers on the staff of a contemporary who invariably rush into print whenever there is an opportunity of attacking the members of their calling, have, of course, been attempting to decry the excellent scheme in question. They seem to have been treated with the calm contempt such attacks from such a quarter deserve, for I have seen no reply made to their vituperation, and once more they have only the pleasure of knowing that they have raged furiously together in vain, and that the scheme they have so hysterically denounced has quietly and quickly achieved a complete success.

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I HEAR that the British Nurses' Association has obtained a new Secretary in the person of Miss Paul, a daughter, I believe, of Mr. Kegan Paul, the head of the well-known firm of publishers, and a lady, it is reported, of considerable energy as well as business habits. I earnestly wish her all success in her responsible post, and hope that her tenure of office will be memorable in the annals of the Association, for the increase of its strength and usefulness. There seems to have been a keen competition for the post by a large number of most excellent candidates, and the final selection from such an *embarras de richesses* must have been as usual most difficult, and is certainly all the more creditable to the successful competitor.

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I MAY mention here that I had occasion to go to the offices of the Association last week, and found them closed and alterations going on, which, I learnt, were being effected in order to make an additional room for the use of Members. I am told that the Reading Room will be re-opened on September 1st; and, from my own experience, I can certainly recommend any Member, who wishes for a quiet read and rest, to take advantage of the opportunities afforded for both at 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, 231, Oxford Street, W.

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THE *Lancet* has a very sensible and necessary letter in its issue of August 2nd, to the following effect:—

"Sirs,—In the last issue of the *Lancet* I read with much interest your commissioner's report on the duties, &c., of Hospital Nurses. Your reporter therein remarks: 'But what strikes me as being the most urgent demand is for a shortening of the hours of unrelieved work. The twelve hours' system is a cruel strain on a woman's strength and nerve.' Now, if the duties of a Nurse in a quiet, orderly assembly of sane patients be so trying, what must it be to spend twelve or more hours amidst excited, violent, suicidal, or dirty lunatics? My object in writing to you is to express my hope that after you have dealt with the case of Hospital Nurses you will appoint a commission to investigate the hours of duty and amount of pay with respect to Asylum Nurses. I fear it will be found practically impossible to do much towards lessening the daily hours of duty, but a comparatively small proportional addition to an Asylum staff would enable each Nurse to have one day's leave each week, in addition to the leave already allowed; thus a good reduction in the weekly hours of duty would be effected. A still more important matter is that of pay and pension. At present, if a Nurse saved the whole of her wages for twenty-five years the amount would be inadequate to buy an annuity, or produce interest that would suffice to feed and clothe her. Hence, in my opinion, every Asylum Nurse or Attendant should be entitled to a minimum pension of £26 a-year after twenty or twenty-five years' service in Wards containing dangerous and harassing patients. If the pension were secure wages would not require to be raised. The *Lancet* has been potent in bringing about important reforms. If it could effect some such changes as I have indicated it would bestow an inestimable boon upon hundreds of most deserving persons.—I remain, Sirs, your obedient servant,
VERAX."

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I HAVE much pleasure in drawing my readers' attention to a very excellent preparation called "Rizine," which is an important adjunct to the present list of foods and dietetics. It is easily prepared, nourishing and digestible, and I have obtained the most satisfactory results by exactly following out the directions given in the various recipes. For invalids it cannot be too highly recommended, and a medical friend of mine who has put the preparation to a thorough test speaks very highly of its value. With stewed fruit it is particularly pleasant. Most, if not all, grocers, Stores, &c., retail it, or it can be had direct from the manufacturers, Talbot Inn Yard, Borough, High Street, S.E. It is also cheap.

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I AM pleased to be able to announce the appointment of Miss Florence L. Forbes to the Matronship of the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells. Miss Forbes commenced her Nursing experience at the Alexandra Hospital for Hip Disease, Queen's Square, W.C., where she had charge of a ward for two years, afterwards going to the Royal Infirmary, Windsor, first as a lady pupil and afterwards taking charge of the Male Wards for twelve months. From thence this lady entered the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, as a Probationer, with a view to enlarging her experience and training, and having spent a year there, next attained the post of Charge Nurse of the Male

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