

sometimes violent, but as little restraint as possible should be used. He should, however, never be lost sight of. High temperature may be relieved by tepid sponging. The eyes should be carefully watched and kept clean, and the doctor's attention *at once* called to any soreness or swelling. Itching may be relieved by the application of vaseline. The patient should be nursed on a water bed, and great care should be taken to keep his mouth as clean as possible. The bowels should be kept open and the condition of the urine observed, as hæmaturia is a symptom of grave import. In nursing small-pox in hospitals the great question of cleanliness arises. If the case is confluent, the scalp is usually too sore to comb, and pediculi congregate and multiply with great rapidity below the scabs. All that can be done is to cut the hair off as closely as possible and apply carbolic oil as freely as possible. A piece of lint cut the shape of a mask, with holes for the eyes, nose, and mouth, smeared with vaseline and applied to the face, facilitates scabing. Such is the nursing needed for confluent cases. In discrete little is needed, and in hæmorrhagic it is of little avail except to soothe the last days of the unfortunate patient.

ISLA STEWART.

NURSING ECHOES.

** * * *Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are specially invited for these columns.*

WHAT a chorus of disapproval about the National Pension Fund. One authority after another rises up and does not call it blessed, but pitilessly exposes its shortcomings. Finally, the *Lancet* this week advises that the prospectus should be withdrawn altogether; which, as it was only issued a fortnight ago, cannot be pleasant reading for Mr. H. C. Burdett, who has for months past been describing himself as the founder of the fund. He has doubtless acted with the best intentions in the world, but it is quite evident he can know nothing about nurses or their wants, or he would never have framed such an utterly unworkable scheme.

EVERYONE feels respectful sympathy, of course, for the four gentlemen who came forward in such princely fashion to assist nurses, because they evidently imagined that Mr. Burdett was quite conversant with nurses' wishes and wants on the matter, and it is natural therefore that they should be greatly disappointed that their most generous intentions are not likely to be carried into effect. I can assure them, however, that many nurses do urgently need some provision for sickness and old age; and that there are gentlewomen who from

practical—not theoretical—knowledge could advise them and other benevolent people exactly how to bestow their gifts, so that these nurses should be really benefitted, and the donors' names—not that of any particular founder—should be perpetuated in the grateful memory of the nursing profession for all time.

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BY-THE-BYE, there is a rumour going about, that as nurses do not seem able to join the fund, efforts are to be made to induce other hospital officials to do so. I cannot believe this, for it would be manifestly unfair that benefits which were intended for nurses specially should be conferred upon any other class, even those most charming officials—the secretaries. Besides, I know no shrewder men than secretaries as a rule are, and I doubt greatly whether—for a shadowy chance of a "bonus"—any one of them will pay to this fund nearly one quarter more than he would have to pay for the same annuity at an old, well-established insurance office!

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I HAVE just heard a rather good story. A hospital sister—well-known for her shrewdness and keen tongue—was informed that to gain a pension of £30 a year at fifty, she must pay £40 16s. a year till then. Her only comment was, "Pretty benevolence! to make me pay sixteen shillings more than I am paid every year, to get what will be just enough to keep me out of a nice warm workhouse!"

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I HEAR that the Secretary of State for India has determined to send out more nurses from England, and that Miss Latch—who is a staff-nurse at St. Bartholomew's—has been appointed a nursing sister on the medical establishment of the Indian army, and will shortly leave for India to act under Miss Loch's command. By-the-bye, I omitted to say that Miss Oxley, of Guy's Hospital, was the colleague of Miss Loch as a sister-superintendent, and that she took out with her several nursing sisters from Guy's and other hospitals to act under her orders, just as Miss Loch has her distinct staff, whose departure I described in the first number. Their stations and duties are not yet clearly defined.

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TRAINED nurses are coming to the front in Egypt as well as in India. Sir Sydney Waterlow has obtained the consent of the Khedive to the establishment of a Nurses' Home in connection with the Kasr-el-Aini Hospital at Cairo. It is proposed that English nurses should be sent out there to educate female natives in the art and science of nursing. At first only two sisters are to be sent, who will be paid £25 for passage-money, and £84 per annum, with board and lodging, uniform, &c. If the scheme succeeds, it is to be extended to the hospital at Alexandria. It will of course be a great benefit to the hospital

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