

Ltd., speaks volumes as to the lack of public interest in that body.

In the next place, the amount definitely stated for the Tribute or Benevolent Fund is given as £78,401; while, as we have said, it is not definitely stated to which of the two purposes of the Fund, the Donations, Collections and proceeds of Entertainments and sale of goods—amounting, in all, to £51,678, were allocated. But when the Expenditure side is turned to, it is obvious that no less than £20,000 was deducted from those receipts, and handed over to the College of Nursing, Ltd., for its Endowment, because that is stated to amount to £38,650.

The Nation's Fund was certainly not successful in its collecting boxes and books, for it seems to have cost £39 to collect £68 by this means! The expenses of the Fund appear to us to have been excessive; no less than £4,214 being spent on advertising, nearly £1,200 on salaries and bonuses, and nearly £1,000 on printing and stationery; while the Entertainments cost no less than £966. In short, it cost the Fund more than £8,000 to collect £96,000, or 1s. out of every 12s. it collected—a fact which is certainly open to question. In this calculation, we take no account of the two gifts to the Fund by the Red Cross Society and the Women's Emergency Corps because they involved no expense to the Fund.

But now, as to the Benevolent or Tribute Fund for Distressed Nurses, noted specifically in the accounts as £78,401. Added to this must be the £14,000 of the other receipts above alluded to, after endowing the College, making £92,000 in all. Let us remember for a moment how the public was urged to help poor destitute broken-down nurses. Let us remember the picture posters which defaced the streets of London, the Victory Dances, the Stage Entertainments, the wholesale degradation of the nursing profession by actresses and others holding up nurses as objects of public pity and pauperisation.

And be it always remembered that all this was done, deliberately, in the face of the strongest protests from self-respecting nurses, and their old and independent Associations, to the effect that Nurses did not require charity, and that they strongly resented the attempt to use the Nursing Profession as a means of self-advertisement by a Committee of actresses and others.

And now behold the results! An ever generous public gave the so-called Nation's Fund, according even to its own showing, £92,000; and in two and a half years the Fund

found sufficient "distressed" nurses to receive £2,144 11s. 6d.! Just think of it!! £1 out of every £46 given to—cadged for by—the Nation's Fund for Destitute Nurses, is all that was actually given to those poor objects of public pity!!! We need not go further, at present, into the accounts. But we have no hesitation in saying that we consider that a Select Committee of the House of Commons should be sought for, and appointed as soon as possible, to inquire into the origin and working of the so-called Nation's Fund for Nurses.

### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

MENTION DISEASES WHICH ARE FREQUENTLY CONVEYED BY (a) MILK; (b) WATER. SUGGEST ANY PRECAUTIONS WHICH CAN BE TAKEN TO PREVENT SUCH INFECTION.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Constance Wilson, the Woodlands, Raydon, Hadleigh, Suffolk.

#### PRIZE PAPER.

1. *Diseases frequently conveyed by milk.*—Tuberculosis, scarlet fever, enteric fever, diphtheria, cholera and diarrhoea.

2. *Diseases frequently conveyed by water.*—In addition to enteric fever and cholera, the following diseases may also be conveyed:—Dysentery, sickness, dyspepsia, digestive disturbances, constipation and diarrhoea. Various parasites may also find their way into drinking water, and enter the digestive system in the form of eggs or embryos, such as the round worm, guinea worm, &c.

Various precautions can be taken to prevent milk becoming infected.

1. Milk should be purchased from a reputable dairy, which will ensure, as far as possible, that the milk has been procured from healthy cows; that the milkman has been taught to wash his hands and the teats of the cows before milking; that the milk has been collected into pails which have previously been scalded; that the milk has been strained and then cooled directly after collection, and has been kept in scalded cans as cool as possible between its collection and distribution to the customer, who should take equal care of it.

2. *Sterilisation.*—In spite of all the above precautions, however, a certain number of micro-organisms will always be present in the milk. These can be destroyed, and also their spores, by sterilisation, *i.e.*, boiling for thirty minutes at least, and then cooling it in running water, and keeping in air-tight bottles. Unfortunately, by this method certain substances called Vitamines, which are necessary ingredients of food, are destroyed.

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