

interns, wonderful pioneer surgeons and physicians, patients, scrub ladies and porters, with "Hoblyn" in one apron pocket and "Fenwick's Guide" in the other, and committing to memory their practical instruction, and varied experience of life in health and disease. To speak on the "M.R.I. in the Seventies" would be more amusing, if less academic, than a discourse on the Registration Rules.

### THE NIGHTINGALE TRAINING SCHOOL, ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

The Matron and Superintendent of the Nightingale Training School, St. Thomas's Hospital, desires it to be known that should any Nightingale Nurse trained before the year 1901 be in difficulty as to the dates of her "Gratuity Certificate Papers"—granted by Miss Nightingale through the Council of the Nightingale Fund—will they communicate with her regarding the same.

Matron wishes to state that the records from the year 1860 and the Certificate records from 1875 are registered, and in order in every detail, in her office at St. Thomas's Hospital.

### ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION FIXTURES.

On Saturday, 15th inst., Miss L. Anderson Parsons will give us "An Evening with Kipling," and Members may expect a real literary treat, for Miss Parsons knows her Kipling "from cover to cover," and those, who have not had time to make such a close study of his works as she has, will have opportunity on the 15th inst. to gather some of the finest gems from his writings, and to get some knowledge of the life and character of this author whose writings are so robust and so inspiring.

There will be no special entertainment on Saturday the 22nd, but for Thursday evening, 20th inst., Miss Aughton, M.R.B.N.A., is organising a Musical Evening which will commence at 7.30 p.m. Clever musicians and elocutionists have very kindly promised their services. We ask Members to make a special note of these dates and to show their appreciation of the kindness of Miss Parsons and Miss Aughton by attending in large numbers.

I. M.

### THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Will nurses ever realise the necessity for proper organisation? In Public Departments, where retrenchment is the order of the day, invariably the custom is to begin with nurses. They are less organised than other employees. One sometimes wonders if they ever think of anything outside of their immediate employment.

Letters are constantly being received from Nurses, complaining that their salaries and bonuses are being cut down, while those of other employees

in the same Department either remain stationary or are increased, and they ask, "can anything be done?"

May I quote from a letter which I have just received?

"It was decided at the meeting which our C.M.O.H. attends that the nurses should have no more lunch money, and bonus taken away or lessened. When I wrote a protest I got no reply, and when I called at the Town Hall was told that Dr. — cared for nothing from us but numbers. I have also been told that I must walk to the place where we are working (which means six miles every day), or get a bicycle on my own account. A Nurse friend in another area is to do the same. Another friend, who is a teacher, told me she had received a notice that *her salary was to be increased*, and with her next payment she would receive the money from April 1st last. The Dentist is still allowed something for a motor, first-class railway fare, 3s. 6d. for lunch, and 2s. 6d. for tea if out after 6 p.m. I am on duty just the same time as he is, and yet allowed nothing, yet I must say nothing."

The moral of this is, how many nurses in that district belong to a Union? One or two at the outside. That nurses are in such a position is entirely their own fault. If they would combine as the teachers have done they could not be treated in this fashion; but, alas! everybody who has tried to help them seems to find that nurses are the most hopeless people to have anything to do with; they are a dead-weight on any organisation. When are they going to wake up?

One thing only will prevent them from being exploited—organisation on a sound basis.

It will be a lasting disgrace to the Profession, that the one organisation which claims to have the largest number of members is the one that has placed the nurses in the position of mendicants.

MAUDE MACCALLUM,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

### PROVISION FOR DISABLED NURSES.

The Ministry of Pensions has issued the following information for officers, widows, and others:—

As advised by the Departmental Committee, whose report on the administration of the Ministry of Pensions was recently published, the Minister of Pensions has taken steps to make more widely known the benefits available to disabled officers and nurses, and the relatives of those deceased. With this object, a new series of leaflets (officially described as "M.P.O. Leaflets") is being issued, dealing with the following matters:—

No. 1.—General information for disabled officers.

No. 2.—Provision for disabled nurses.

No. 3.—Medical treatment of disabled officers and nurses.

No. 4.—Supply, renewal and repair of surgical and artificial appliances (other than artificial limbs).

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