

nursing was in its infancy. At that time it was customary to make to nurses a certain allowance for beer, and, week by week, Mrs. Kerr set this aside, and, on retiring from nursing work at an advanced age, bought a fine telescope, to take the place of the beer she did not have, and started the study of astronomy. Perhaps this study has been one of the factors in keeping her so broad-minded and kindly in her feeling towards others. "You never hear her grouse," say the younger nurses. Often when she drops in at the Club, she is the object of much good-natured banter, but we are bound to say that it is usually the younger members who come off second best in any battle of wit. Anyhow she yields to none in the adventures incident to a nurse's life. What matters it if one may boast of long rides in a luxurious motor car when at her last case? Why, Mrs. Kerr rode in Lord Dalhousie's carriage in her youth, and this proud Scotchwoman would not give up the memory of that experience to ride in a State procession in England! Nurses may do a lot now in Parliamentary campaigns, but on the strength of knowledge attained she has corresponded with the great Sir Robert Ball and shaken hands with the present Astronomer Royal when he lectured before the Association! But this telescope, now gifted to the R.B.N.A., has been the close friend of her declining years—the best, the most loved of all her possessions—and when we reckon what it has cost the giver to part with it, we feel that words lose their meaning somewhat when we try to express our thanks. Anyhow, Mrs. Kerr can rest assured that it will be guarded as a treasured possession, and we like the goodwill and gratitude that has caused her to say that she wished the working nurses to have it as a memento of the happy years she spent in the Settlement Home.

Mrs. Kerr has promised to come one evening to show us how to put the pieces of the telescope together on the drawing-room balcony, and to give us a fireside lecture on astronomy. It is proposed that she should be the guest of the Association at dinner on that evening, and any members who wish to attend should notify the Secretary of their intention, as notice of the date of the demonstration must be given by telephone or telegram when the stars in their courses are found to be favourable to astronomical research and the clouds conspicuous by their absence.

NEW YEAR'S EVE.

Recently, round the drawing-room fire, the members in residence expressed the opinion that we should have some special plans for the last day of the year, and then proceeded to consider what kind of festivity they felt would be the best. It was agreed that we should have a party for the early members of the Association and for any of the nurses belonging to the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund who may care to come. We shall be glad to hear from any members who will help us in this matter by sending a subscription (not to

exceed one shilling) towards expenses, by coming to act as hostesses or by helping to arrange a short musical programme.

OBITUARY.

A gentle presence has gone from out the ranks of the Association by the passing of Sister Mary Peter of the Little Company of Mary. Sister Mary, who held a three years' certificate of training, did wonderful work during the war, in France and Belgium, for which she received recognition and thanks from the French Government. From 1918 until shortly before her death she worked in St. Raphael's Hospital, Edinburgh (which is under the Ministry of Pensions), where she was greatly beloved. Many little incidents are related of her wonderful kindness to the broken and dying men there. In the voluminous pocket of her nun's dress she would carry a rosary for the dying and many little things that from time to time might help to give pleasure or relief to those who were suffering. She was awarded the A.R.R.C., of which she was very proud.

Sister Mary Peter was a most loyal and interested member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and from the quiet and sanctity of her Religious Order watched with keenest interest its efforts to stand for the right. Many were the prayers which this gentle little Sister of Mercy offered that the Association might be given strength and power for its mission. She passed away at Urham College after a very short illness, having gone up to nurse the students there during an epidemic.

DONATIONS.

GENERAL PURPOSES FUND.

Misses Clarke, Lancaster, £1 1s.; Miss Billett, Mrs. Cooper, £1; Misses Jordan, Shepherd, 10s.; Miss Mawe, 8s.; Miss Turnbull, 7s. 6d.; Misses Le Geyt, Rothkugel, Whittaker, Young, and Mrs. Sherliker, 5s.; Miss Bissell, 4s.; Misses Burgin, Carew, De Vine, Phillips, Bennett, Whitford, Hart, and "Anon.," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Simpson, 2s.; Misses Huggins, Mason, 1s.; and Mrs. Welch, 6d.

HELENA BENEVOLENT FUND.

Miss Lancaster, £2 2s.; Misses C. A. and M. Little, 10s.; Mrs. Robson, Miss Cooper, 5s.; Misses Barton, Bamford, Bennett, Munson, Milford, and Pocock, 2s. 6d.; Misses Mason, Phillips, 2s.; and Misses Bissell, Halsall, Holt, Mrs. Hurst, Melville, Welch, 1s.

THE CLUB.

Mrs. Sherliker, 5s.; and Miss Wiskin, 2s. 6d.

INSTRUCTION IN PRACTICAL PSYCHOLOGY.

Miss A. M. Hallam, who is well known to our members, will begin a course of Instruction in Practical Psychology on Tuesday, December 12th, at the Central Hall, Westminster, at 7.30 p.m. It is sure to arouse much interest.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)