

RECORD SCHEMES—No. 1.

A Provision for Nurses in Old Age and Sickness.

THRIFT is a cardinal virtue, and should certainly be regarded in that aspect by Nurses. Like medical men, their everyday work shows them not only many examples where penury has followed improvidence; but also the immense uncertainties of life or health or prosperity. It goes without saying that Nurses, as well as others who work for their daily bread, should make provision against old age and sickness. But they are always busy, and rarely business, women, and we are well aware that many of them neglect this duty, although they clearly recognise its importance, merely because they do not know how to act for the best. Some few years ago this fact caused a Pension Fund for Nurses to be proposed, but unfortunately a scheme was evolved which, although supported by the princely generosity of City merchants, has proved practically valueless to the great majority of those who most need such help. We have again and again pointed out, in these columns, that the so-called Royal National Pension Fund is only an expensive new Insurance Office, and that the premiums to be paid for its annuities are higher than those charged for similar benefits by old-standing and important agencies. By means of great exertions, and very considerable pressure brought to bear upon Nurses, a certain number have been persuaded to join this Fund, but we are led to believe, by many communications, that in a very few years a large proportion of these will have ceased to subscribe, and that comparatively few will become policyholders in their places. Another grave defect in the scheme, so far as Nurses are concerned, is that the benefits of sickness insurance can only be obtained by those who subscribe for annuities. So that the many who desire to secure for themselves regular payments in times of illness, can only do so by subscribing for a provision for old age, which, perhaps, they do not expect that they will need. In short, the National Pension Fund—which does not give pensions at all—has been

tried and found wanting. In response to numerous requests from our readers, we have for some months been engaged in considering how Nurses can best be helped in making provision against old age and sickness, and we can now claim to have solved a difficult problem. We desire it to be distinctly understood that we do not pretend to be professional philanthropists. This is merely a matter of business, and there is not a single element of charity in it. It affords us much pleasure to assist our readers by every means in our power, and we claim no credit for so doing.

Our New Year's gifts to Nurses are two carefully considered schemes—by means of which they can secure, in one case, when they reach a certain age, a regular income payable to them half-yearly, or other prospective benefits; and, in the other case, a weekly allowance when disabled from work by sickness or accident.

We are naturally unable, within our limited space, to give these schemes in full detail; but we subjoin four tables as typical of the various benefits which Nurses can obtain, without any fuss or parade, from well-established insurance agencies. And, as our readers will observe, the Annuities and Sick Pay can thus be purchased, not only without the introduction of the charitable element, but at markedly less cost than is involved in similar dealings with that most expensive Charity, the R.N.P.F.

ANNUITY SCHEME.

The Prudential Assurance Company, founded in 1848, has invested funds amounting to more than FOURTEEN MILLION POUNDS, and is therefore immeasurably safer than a new and untried fund which does not possess the hundredth part of its capital. The following tables show the premiums which Nurses would have to pay to obtain the benefits stated. Forms of application and all further information can be obtained by sending three-pence in stamps to the Editor, *The Nursing Record* Offices, 11, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.

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