

But, now, we very respectfully submit to their Royal Highnesses the President and Patron, and to the Patronesses, Vice-Presidents, and Council, that a statement which is so very inaccurate—as we have proved that to be which we have quoted above—should not be made publicly under the sanction of their respected names.

We, furthermore, ask whether, in their judgment, it is justifiable that a Royal National Pension Fund—munificently endowed—should charge a poorly-paid class of working women from 20 to 26 per cent. more than they would have to pay if they applied for the same benefits at an ordinary insurance office, or, indeed, what justification there is under such circumstances for its very expensive existence? We cannot believe that they would have given their names and influence to the Fund if they had imagined that its charity was so strikingly commercial.

NURSES AT A PREMIUM.

THE terrible plague from which Europe is at present suffering has suddenly emphasised the importance attached, at the present day, to the services of a Trained Nurse. In serious cases, in well-to-do families, the first prescription of the Doctor is usually, a Trained Nurse, upon whom he can rely to carry out his directions, and be his eyes and ears between his visits, noting symptoms of the first importance, but of the occurrence of which without such a skilled observer he probably would never hear. The consequence has been that in this epidemic every available worker is already engaged, and the demand for more Nurses continues to increase. This condition of affairs seems to surprise the public, who apparently do not realise that if such a phenomenal demand had been satisfied, it would conclusively have proved that, under normal circumstances the Nursing profession was enormously overcrowded. Now, however, we hear from all parts of the country, of Institutions being obliged to refuse twenty, fifty, and even seventy applications every day. We ourselves have even received four telegrams imploring us to send a Nurse to urgent cases. It is an ill wind that blows no good to anyone, and pecuniarily, we imagine, and we hope, that Nurses are obtaining better rewards than usual for their services. Several of our readers are, we are informed, receiving five or six guineas a week, and a lady, recently telegraphed to a well-known Institution, offering £50 for a thoroughly good Nurse, and, yet even with that inducement could not be supplied.

CONSCIENTIOUS CRITICISM.

IT is so much more easy, as a general rule, to grant than to refuse requests, to say pleasant than disagreeable things, to go with the thoughtless and express views which require no mental labour to evolve, than

Loeflund's "L" Malt Extract—prepared as "Pure Hordeum" (q. v.), but with less diastasic strength. 1s. 6d. Also with Cod Liver Oil, exceedingly palatable, greatly enhances the value of the oil, and may be taken under any circumstances. Recommended to all who would gain flesh. 2s. R. Baelz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

to investigate, weigh, and consider, and then to frame a deliberate judgment—that a conscientious critic has oftentimes a harder task than the general public understands. This reflection has been brought home to our minds by the arduous tasks which we have set ourselves to accomplish—the exposure of abuses, without fear or favour, wherever they exist in the Nursing Departments of our Hospitals, the institution of State Registration of Trained Nurses, the improvement of the education and work of Nurses. We are well aware that it would have been much more easy and comfortable for ourselves to have sung a weekly pœan of praise of Hospital authorities; but our conscience has compelled us to speak out, in no uncertain language, when we find that Nurses are overworked and half-starved, or treated with cruel injustice. We know that we are eminently unpopular with those who pay semi-trained Nurses £20 a year, and wring out of the public for their services two guineas a week; but we shall never desist from our work until this iniquitous system is abolished. We have hitherto had the solitary satisfaction of knowing that we had done our duty; but we are frankly glad to see that our work is now bearing fruit. Reforms are being made in every direction. Nurses are beginning to realise the benefits of our programme to themselves, and in greater numbers, every month, they are giving us their confidence and support. We have had a long and an uphill struggle, but we are sufficiently rewarded by the success which we are achieving, and by the recognition of our readers that our criticisms of people and of projects have not only been conscientiously made, but have been amply justified by subsequent experience.

SIDE BY SIDE.

It is a highly significant sign of the times, and clearly defines the position which Trained Nursing has been accorded in the public mind, that one of our most influential illustrated contemporaries last week gave portraits of the medical man and of the Nurse who attended the Duke of Clarence, side by side. It points important morals. We, with our special information, know that all over the country, educated gentlewomen are displacing in our Hospitals those workers of the domestic-servant class, who were such a vast improvement upon their predecessors. Doctors have eagerly welcomed their sisters and daughters, and women of their own social rank, as co-workers, for they know that not only will the sick benefit by gentler-handed ministrations, but that they themselves obtain more loyal and more useful helpers. The silent revolution in the Nursing world is rapidly progressing, the few Hospitals which are attempting to stem the tide of progress, and keep and treat Nurses now as formerly, are vainly struggling against the inevitable. Until the end of time Medicine must command, and Nursing must obey; but they are fighting now, and they will fight in future, with growing strength and knowledge, side by side, in the great army which is waging a never-ending conflict with disease and death.

Loeflund's Cremor Hordeatus (Condensed Cream Emulsion) a delicious Confection of Milk Fat (i.e., Cream) with Malt Extract. Effectually supersedes Cod Liver Oil, being easily digested, and may be spread or dissolved in Tea, Coffee, &c. Invaluable in phthisis, consumption, and all wasting diseases. 2s. 6d. R. Baelz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, London, E.C.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)