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EDITORIAL.

THE NATIONAL PENSION FUND FOR NURSES.

WE have lately received the First Report of the Council of the National Pension Fund for Nurses, with the accounts and balance-sheet. It seems that these have appeared already in certain journals devoted to insurance matters ; but for some strange reason have not yet been reproduced in the columns of the organ of the Fund itself. There can be no doubt that this publicity would have been prominently and immediately given had the figures and facts disclosed by these documents been considered fully satisfactory. As it is, however, the most cursory perusal reveals more than sufficient evidence to prove every indictment which the *Lancet* and this journal brought originally against the scheme. We congratulate the leading Medical journal and ourselves, therefore, that by the published statements of the Council itself, the position which we independently took up against the Fund has been entirely vindicated.

We would first recall to the minds of our readers, and of the members of the Council, that,

prior to the appearance of the first prospectus of the Fund, we promised it our most cordial support, *provided* that, upon careful examination, it proved likely to be of benefit to Nurses. Our sole reason for inserting the proviso at all was that we were somewhat astonished by the startling prominence in the matter assumed by a gentleman who, so far as we could learn, could only have the smallest possible knowledge of Nurses, and who certainly arrogated to himself a status which, under the circumstances, it would have been more seemly to have conferred upon those by whose real benevolence the scheme was undoubtedly initiated, and without whose influential support the Fund would, long ere this, have died a natural death. In due course the proposals of the Council were made public. At considerable expense we submitted these to the careful consideration of a gentleman well known in insurance circles, and upon his criticisms, combined with those of Medical men, Hospital Matrons, and many Nurses, we based every conclusion on the subject which, from that time to the present, we have stated in these columns.

How accurate our information was, and how strictly accurate our deductions were, has been conclusively proved. Only upon one single occasion could the Council find one single word whereat it could take exception. How anxiously and carefully our criticisms were watched was proved by the fact that, once having used the word "many," a lawyer's letter was instantly despatched direct to the proprietors of this journal. We substituted the word "several," and repeated, and offered to prove, our statement ; but neither that, nor any past, or subsequent, statement has ever been again called in question. From which the inference is most clear that we were admitted to be correct in every point which we urged. In deference to the benevolent intentions of the four merchant princes who founded this fund, we did not bring forward many proofs then and now in our possession, but we simply used

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