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— OUR ALBUM. —



A DEACONESS, IMMANUEL HOSPITAL & INSTITUTE,
OMAHA, NEB., U.S.A. (WORKING DRESS).

EDITORIAL.

THE NATIONAL PENSION FUND FOR NURSES.

WE wrote last week that the money given by the four merchant princes for the benefit of Nurses had beyond all doubt resulted in the foundation of a new Insurance Office. But the enormous expense at which the scheme has been started, and worked, deserves most careful consideration. The first glance reveals that the Fund received for Annuity and Sickness Funds £13,650, from February, 1888, to June 30th, 1889; its expenses for initiation and management during this period being apparently £2,063; while in the Sickness Fund Account it seems to have cost nearly £14 to distribute less than £25 of sick pay! In the first instance nearly £1,300 were given—it is stated—to cover preliminary expenses, but these are mixed up in the Accounts with the expenses of after management in the most unbusinesslike way, so that it is impossible to understand how much should be separately placed to each entirely distinct charge.

For example, we never remember to have seen in properly audited accounts such a statement as the following:—"Expenses of management, including all the preliminary expenses of founding the Society, less donations specially given in aid of the preliminary and formation expenses, £762 10s. 3d." Now—merely expressing *en passant* some mild surprise at the grammatical construction of this sentence—we consider that the Council will not increase public confidence in this scheme by sending forth such a statement as this. It is distinctly stated, then, that £762 represents the working expenses for sixteen months, and "all the preliminary expenses" in addition, to an extent which is for some reason made obscure. Why? The obscurity is made the more marked,

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