

matter to the experienced hands of the Duke of Westminster, Sir James Paget, and Sir Rutherford Alcock, to draw up the details of the scheme. At present all that is known is that the money is to be invested in the names of trustees and the interest expended in providing nurses for the sick poor of London, Dublin, and Edinburgh in their own homes.

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THEN came the National Pension Fund for nurses, when four City merchants placed between them £20,000 in the hands of the Chancery officials to enable an Insurance Office to be founded, according to law, for nurses' special use. The prospectus of the scheme, we hear, is to be issued this week, and it only remains to be seen how many nurses are prepared to lay by one-eighth of their salary every year. Opinions differ, of course, most widely, but I prefer not to prophesy, *till* I know, whether 1,000 will do so or not. If that number do not join within two years, I do not quite understand who will pay the expenses of management, etc., because the £20,000, it is stated, is only offered conditionally on that measure of success being obtained.

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ALMOST simultaneously with the Pension Fund, the British Nurses' Association was established. The *raison d'être* put forward by its founders is, as I understand it, simply this:—Nurses are so well trained and educated now, and skilled nursing is so important to medical men and the public, that they think the time has come to elevate nursing into a profession; that nurses are so widely scattered and disunited now that only united effort can enable them to gain that recognised position for their calling; and that, even when nursing is legally established as a profession, there are many things nurses as individuals urgently want which they can only obtain by the same union which every-day experience teaches is the greatest strength.

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It certainly appears very wise of the founders of this association to have started with the distinct understanding that only medical men and nurses can be members of this new professional body. Doctors, lawyers, and clergymen would not allow their respective callings to be organised and controlled by anyone, however eminent, outside their own specialty. Imagine what ridicule would be cast on the Archbishop of Canterbury were he to issue regulations for the medical profession, or on the Lord Chief Justice if he dictated in what subjects clergymen should be tested as to their fitness for parochial work.

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To my unprejudiced mind, several facts are quite convincing. A Royal Princess would never have become president and working member of a new

association like this, nor would all the eminent medical men whose names appear as its vice-presidents, committee, and council, have given their names and support, unless they were one and all convinced the movement was necessary and good. It is reported that 90 matrons and over 500 doctors, sisters, and nurses have already become members! I can hardly credit this, as the association was only formed seven or eight weeks ago, but should be glad to receive definite information. If it be even approximately true, such marvellously rapid success simply proves that the new association has supplied a want that was felt by many.

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Miss Loch and her subordinates created quite a sensation at Victoria Station on the occasion of their departure for the far East. They are the first detachment of lady nurses sent out to act on the establishment of the Indian army. The uniform is a grey camelot dress with scarlet facings, grey cloak and bonnet with white strings; and very becoming it is. Miss Loch, we understand, took seven nurses from St. Bartholomew's with her—Miss Betty, Miss Harris, Miss Kelly, Miss Lickfold, Miss Welchman, Misses Sophia and Annie Watkins. Miss Loch, who was Sister Darker at St. Bartholomew's, and from all accounts will be greatly missed there, has been succeeded in her position at the hospital by Miss Florence Smedley, who gained the gold medal at the nurses' examination in May last. It is not generally known that the Clothworkers' Company give two gold medals to the nurses who are placed first at each half-yearly examination at St. Bartholomew's, and valuable prizes of books to those who gain the second places. Such generosity may well be commended to other rich City companies for their speedy imitation at other large nursing schools.

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Miss PHILIPPA HICKS, the Assistant Matron at King's College Hospital, has been appointed Lady-Superintendent to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. She is the originator of a scheme for sending sick nurses for a fortnight's rest and change of air to private houses in the country, the owners of which, at her request, have promised to take in any nurse recommended by her, and treat her exactly as one of the family. Miss Hicks may well be congratulated on her success, for there was a keen competition for the post, and the few candidates finally selected were well-known and greatly respected matrons or sisters. The vacancy has been created by the resignation of Miss Catherine J. Wood, the authoress of the well-known standard work on Nursing, who has for many years been holding, I hear, a unique position—that of a Lady-Superintendent without any salary.

Signed for the writers,

SAIREY G.

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