

### A PENSION FUND FOR LIVERPOOL NURSES.

THE following important letter appeared in the *Liverpool Daily Post*, on the 2nd inst., and it gives us much pleasure to call our readers' earnest attention to it. It is one instance more of the interest at present felt and shown by benevolent people all over the kingdom in the welfare of Nurses. But it teaches several other lessons. It conclusively shows the low opinion held by those who are well acquainted with Nursing matters of the so-called National Pension Fund for Nurses, when men like Mr. Rathbone, one of the best friends of Nurses in England, are found to be organizing a purely local Fund. We do not understand exactly the terms which will be offered to Nurses; but under such management as this new Fund will possess, we doubt not that they will be widely different from the ridiculous provisions of the National Pension Fund. We will report its progress, and if we find upon further knowledge that, as we fully expect, it is likely to benefit Nurses, we will give it our warmest support.

"SIR,—I wish to draw the attention of the inhabitants of Liverpool to the claims of a charity which is too little known.

"About thirty years ago, experience in a private family, during illness, of the great comfort and advantage of Trained Nursing led to a skilled Nurse being sent to work among the poor in their own homes.

"The result was so satisfactory in the extraordinary amount of suffering relieved, of life saved, and also in teaching those into whose houses the Nurse went to tend their own friends in illness, and to pay more attention to cleanliness and sanitary rules, that the work was further organised, and the town divided into eighteen districts, each with a Trained Nurse, and under the charge of Liverpool ladies who have interested themselves in the work, and who provide, or raise from others, the means to procure the necessary nourishment and comforts for the patients, and to enable the Nurse to do her work effectually.

"The information gained in carrying out this work in Liverpool led, under the guidance of Miss Nightingale, to the rapid extension of the reforms she initiated in the care of the sick after the Crimean War, and to their introduction into Workhouses and Hospitals. The Liverpool Training School and Home, in Dover Street, was founded in order to facilitate the training of a sufficient number of women as skilled Nurses for the Infirmary and for District and Private Nursing.

The system of Nursing the poor in their own homes proved such a success in Liverpool that it has been widely adopted elsewhere. It was now recognised as a national work. The Queen herself has sanctioned it as such, by devoting the bulk of the Women's Jubilee Offering, to the amount of about £70,000, to an organisation, called the 'Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses,' for tending the poor in their own homes.

"Women, to be really good Nurses, should be devoted to their profession, and think more of their patients than themselves; and from this unselfishness of character they are apt to give up their savings to idle or helpless friends and relations.

"We, who benefit by their devotion in illness, ought to encourage and aid them, as far as possible, to make some provision for their future well-being when they are no longer able to work.

"Mr. Gibbon, a few years ago, raised a sum of money towards providing a Pension Fund for our Nurses, but it has proved to be inadequate. The committee, therefore, have had to consider whether they must give up promising a pension to their Nurses in future.

"The years 1887 and 1888 have been remarkable in the annals of Liverpool, not only for improvement in the state of trade, but for the proofs given by some of our leading fellow-citizens of their sense of responsibility in the use of wealth, and of the power which wealth gives. Sir Andrew Walker, Messrs. Harrison, and last, not least, Mr. Tate, have contributed with unsparing hands to the educational institutions of the town. And now, Mr. James Harrison, hearing of the difficulty, promised that if we would establish the Pension Fund on a really sound footing, he would contribute the sum of £5,000 towards providing a fund which should be devoted, first, to secure adequate pensions for the Nurses, if they themselves contributed reasonably thereto. Any income left after this was secured, to be devoted to Nursing the poor in their own homes.

"Mr. Tate has also promised to contribute £1,000 to this Fund, and I shall be glad to follow so good an example, and will add another £1,000.

"Both Mr. Harrison and Mr. Tate have been given to understand, that an effort will be made to place not only the Pension Fund, but the general funds of the Institution on a more stable and sound footing, so that we may not again have the deficiency we have had of late years.

"To do this we require to add £200 or £300 to our annual subscription list.

"We now appeal to our fellow-citizens for donations to the endowment fund, or for what would be still more valuable—annual subscriptions: sufficient to enable us to carry on and to extend our District Nursing, so as to embrace the whole

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