

Yet on entering upon the life of a hospital nurse what do we find? The superintendent of nurses struggling alone in a position imposed upon her by tradition, shut off from the companionship of those about her, except for the few assistants who rank somewhat below her, struggling day after day with the problem of discipline, growing bitter and cynical over the inevitable outcome of such enforcement of disregarded rules and lack of responsibility on the part of those about her,—the nurses chafing under discipline which they consider petty tyranny. How did this all come about, and whose fault is this waste of energy?

A SUBSCRIBER.

DEAR EDITOR: In the October number of *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING* Miss Delia Knight makes a statement in regard to life-insurance on the endowment plan which is not quite fair. It may be so in the cases quoted, but all companies do not transact business in that way. In my own case a twenty-year endowment policy was taken out in 1889. If the twenty years had expired in 1901, I would have received my share of the company's dividends, amounting to fourteen hundred and eighty dollars and seventeen cents. The premium on a thousand dollars is the same now for women that men are paying, forty-eight dollars and fifty-three cents yearly.

In case of death at any time after payment of the first premium, the one thousand dollars would be paid to the family or legatee.

If in need, money can be borrowed of the company on the policy at five per cent. interest.

I am very much in favor of the endowment form of life-insurance, and would recommend it especially for nurses.

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UNIFORMS ON THE STREET

DEAR EDITOR: Is it adding a superfluous word to endorse all that was said in the December number of this magazine on the above subject? From time to time much has been said and written on the loyalty to one's school in continuing to wear the uniform of the school. Some fabrics are now so largely adopted by the domestics in the houses we are called out to nurse in that to make any kind of distinction the graduate has to adopt a costume of her own. But as our professional capacity is usually only called for in the sick-room there is all the more reason that we should reserve our professional costume for that place and season, and so strongly does the Orange Alumnae Association feel about the "uniform on the street" being decidedly out of place and season, that at their meeting last May the following resolution was heartily endorsed,—*"That the Alumnae Association of the Orange Training-School for Nurses condemns the practice of wearing the nurses' costume on the street by the graduate nurse,"*—and presented a memorial to the Board of Governors of the Training-School begging that the practice among the pupil nurses be discouraged when not on duty. This has received their attention, and a dress distinct from that worn in the wards and while in attendance on sickness will shortly be prescribed; it will at least be less well-known and noticeable than the seersucker. Let us by all means try to efface ourselves, rather than call the attention of every passerby to our profession and calling, proud as we may rightly be of such a vocation.

"S."

202 WEST SEVENTY-FOURTH STREET, NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.,
December 14, 1901.

DEAR EDITOR: I have carefully read the "Editorial Comment" in the December number of *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*, particularly the suggestion that "... membership shall consist of delegates from *any kind of a nursing organization*, provision being made that the non-resident members shall not be permitted to take an active part in State matters, and of isolated individual nurses, until such time as there shall be ten individual members in a county, when for further representation they shall be required to organize and send a delegate."

I think it would be very much simpler to have the State association composed of local organizations in the different counties—the local organizations being practically branches of the parent association. This would give us individual membership, also individual membership *dues*, a most important item. It is indisputable that individual membership would result in a larger fund in the treasury to meet the inevitable expense of such an association than could be raised by annual dues from existing nursing organizations.

In order that nurses of every locality should be fairly represented at the annual conventions every local organization should be entitled to one delegate and alternate for, say, every fifty members of such local organization to represent them at the annual meeting of the State association. They should be entitled to vote by proxy before the annual meeting and to cast a number of votes corresponding to the number of members of their local organization.

Personally I believe the State association will be a much broader and stronger organization if all distinction of school is eliminated; therefore I am not in favor of membership consisting of delegates from *alumnæ societies*, especially as there are many graduates of good standing who for personal reasons do not care to belong to their *alumnæ society*.

B. VAN HOMRIGH.

[LETTERS to the Editor must be accompanied by the name in full and address of the writer, otherwise such communications cannot be recognized. The name need not appear in the *JOURNAL* unless so desired.—ED.]

