

the medical man cannot expect from the untutored friend or relation. More than this is not necessary for the practical success of the scheme. We are glad to see further that while no charge will be made for the nurse's services in necessitous cases, where a patient can afford to pay, something will be required in return for the services rendered ; how much is to be asked in each individual case will be determined by the Committee of the Branch. We have no fear that working along these cautious and practical lines the Victorian Order will be found of great aid, not only to the patients, but to members of the profession, and we feel assured that it will steadily gain in popularity, and will obtain increasing support from the charitable.

We candidly confess, however, that we cannot but regret that at the moment when the local branches are being started in this eminently sensible manner, it should have been thought wise by the central authorities to issue an appeal for funds to send nurses to the Klondyke. Were those who are now rushing northwards impelled by noble desire, were their object to add to the glory of our Dominion rather than fill their own pockets, there would be strong reason for asking for this fund for nurses ; as it is, it is difficult to manufacture sympathy for the run after gold. We do not mean to say that it is not right that there should be nurses, and good nurses, in the Klondyke, or that we are insensible to the hardships which will be undergone in the far north ; we only say this, that, as a matter of policy, the appeal, coming at the present time, is a mistaken one. It is but another proposal by which it will be impossible to arouse enthusiasm for the Victorian Order. No one can bring forward serious objections against local efforts on the part of the Order—indeed everyone must eventually sympathise with the work done under their eyes—but people can and will object to supporting an order which, from the start, enters into a big and doubtful project. We do not say this selfishly, we do not wish to urge that the money of the charitable should be applied locally, but we do say that, as a matter of policy, a series of simple and well sustained local efforts will be the means whereby the order will grow in favour, and when it becomes of established popularity it is then, and not at its inception, that wider schemes may be indulged in.