

find far more difficult of acquirement than others. Whilst on this subject I must warn you that you will find the Medical Wards of a Hospital much duller than the Surgical. The patients are generally more seriously ill, or, at least, their constitutions have perhaps been impaired for years, and this affects their spirits in a way unusual even in most serious Surgical cases.

Also, on coming into a Medical Ward, after having been in a busy Surgical Ward, full of excitement, and of hurrying (however gently) to and fro, you are apt to think the first day that there there is nothing for a Probationer Nurse to do. In less than a week you will find your mistake, and be ready perhaps to agree with the authority I quoted in my first chapter, that there is, after all, more real nursing here than in Surgical cases. There is less that can be reduced to rule; but there is, for that very reason, a wider scope for that common sense which is the most uncommon of all senses.

Private judgment though, however well founded it may appear to be, must never be allowed to interfere with the most absolute obedience to the Doctor.

(To be continued.)

BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

THE Quarterly Meeting of the General Council of the Association was held on Friday, the 12th inst., at the Medical Society's Rooms in Chandos Street. Mr. Savory, the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, took the chair in the absence of Her Royal Highness, the President. The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Miss Wood read the report of the Executive Committee as follows:—

The Executive Committee makes the following reports and recommendations to the General Council.

1. There has been a total addition of 219 Members, viz., 14 Matrons, four Doctors, and 201 Nurses, making the total number of Members enrolled up to date, 2,389.

2. Her Majesty the Empress Frederick of Germany has been graciously pleased to express her wish to become a Vice-President of the Association, in evidence of the great interest she takes in its organisation and objects. It is, therefore, recommended that the Council do now, in accordance with the bye-laws, elect Her Majesty as a Vice-President of the Association. [*This was put to the meeting and carried by acclamation.*]

3. In view of the possible danger of infection

being conveyed by any Nurses employed in fever cases, who may be present at future Conversazioni of the Association, the Executive Committee recommends that no Nurse employed at a fever Hospital, or in Nursing a fever case in private, should be admitted to a Conversazione, unless she produces a certificate from a Matron or Medical man, that she has been completely and efficiently disinfected, between the times of leaving her patient and entering the Conversazione. [*This was adopted unanimously.*]

4. The Executive Committee have now taken and furnished Offices at 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, Oxford Street, W., where attendance is daily given between the hours of ten a.m. and four p.m.; to which all communications should in future be addressed, and where Members are at liberty to call at any time during office hours, if they wish for personal information, assistance, or advice on any professional matter.

5. In view of the smallness of subscriptions paid by Nurses, and of the extensive operations which the Association proposes in due course to undertake, the Committee recommends that after four thousand members have been enrolled, an entrance fee of five shillings should be charged to all future Nurses joining the Association. [*This was adopted unanimously.*]

6. The Executive Committee having very carefully considered the matter, would draw the attention of the Council to the fact that it has now authorised an appeal for a Royal Charter; the institution of a Registration Board for Nurses for the United Kingdom; the foundation and carrying on of Convalescent Homes and Holiday Houses, of a Central Home in London, and of a Benevolent Fund for the benefit of Members of the Association. Each and every one of these schemes will require a considerable income, whilst the half-crown subscriptions will only, with much economy, suffice to conduct the ordinary business of the Association. The Executive Committee therefore recommends that before public assistance is sought for, to carry out these schemes, an appeal should first be directed to each Nurse Member of the Association, asking for her active individual help, in obtaining subscriptions or donations for these objects from her own friends. If members thus show—as the Executive Committee fully believes they will—that they are each one willing energetically to help forward these schemes, it is quite certain that the public at large will be much more willing to give its assistance freely also. [*This was adopted unanimously.*]

7. The Executive Committee feeling the importance of calling public attention to the necessity of the Legal Registration of Nurses, and thus strengthening the hand of the Association in its

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