

it was decided at the last Council Meeting to ask every Member to do what she individually can in obtaining donations or, better still, annual subscriptions to the Association. There are very few Nurses who have not friends, or have not had patients, sufficiently rich and sufficiently interested in Nursing to be able and willing to subscribe to such a cause. And when it is remembered that the Association proposes to organise and conduct Convalescent Homes and Holiday Houses, and sea-side or country health resorts; to maintain a Central Home in London where Provincial Members could find hotel accommodation, and London Members a congenial club; to provide funds to assist Nurses in sickness and old age, and to carry out many other benevolent projects, two things are quite certain.

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FIRSTLY, none of these schemes, nor even one of them, can possibly be arranged without large funds being provided, and certainly the small annual subscriptions cannot do more than cover the working expenses of the Association. Secondly, if the members rise to the occasion, and a little friendly rivalry, as to who can help her Association the most, is excited, in a month the proceeds of such organised efforts should suffice to make the Nurses' Union the richest and therefore the most powerful professional Association in existence. I am told that already some well-known Nurses are working hard in the matter, sending the printed appeal to everyone they know who can afford to give, with an earnest request from themselves that assistance should be given to the Association. Mr. Editor tells me that he has offered to print the lists of subscribers and donors to this appeal, and everyone must hope that it will be so long as severely to tax his ability to find space for it.

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GREAT amusement was caused in Nursing circles, and no little irritation and annoyance to the managers of Nursing Institutions, by the following paragraph which, a month or so ago, went the round of the daily papers:—"Combination for mutual advantage among Private Nurses seems likely to take a practical shape, for a gentleman, residing at 20, Porchester Square, announces his willingness to assist the over-worked and under-paid *employées* of Nursing Institutes, if two hundred of such ladies will forward their names to him on a post-card within the next few weeks, expressing their willingness to form such a league. He would take from their over-burdened hands the responsibility of forming a committee, drawing up rules, and altogether putting a Trades' Union of Nurses into working order."

It is amusing, but not surprising, to learn, that only about a dozen replies have been received instead of the two hundred which this "gentleman" seems to have expected. Nurses are not stupid enough to dream of forming a Trades' Union among themselves. They know that it would never succeed, and that an attempt to do so would only embitter relations which must be cordial and kindly, or their work would be altogether impossible. Nurses will readily follow the leaders of their own profession, as the record of the rapid success of the B.N.A. abundantly proves, but it is very difficult to make them follow anyone else. Everyone must regret that such an attempt to stir up ill-will should ever have been made.

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THE following remarks by Dr. Benjamin Richardson are well worthy of Nurses' attention, especially of those engaged in private work:—"Too little attention is paid to what may very properly be called art in the sick-room. In these modern days we do not confine to their rooms people who are sick, for the long periods common to an age of medicine which has now nearly passed away. But even at the present time we require to practise more artistic care. A sick-room should always be as agreeable to the eye of the patient as it can be made, and every effort should be carried out to prevent monotony. The furniture should be light, easily movable, and of a cheerful colour; all dark hangings and sombre coverings, when there, should be replaced by white or light blue or gray-coloured fabrics, and the walls should be of gray or light green colour."

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"PAPERS of flaring colours, and papers which have for a pattern a number of rings or circles, or flowers of one design, are extremely bad. I remember an instance in which the paper of a wall had for its pattern a series of circles like so many sunflowers; that paper produced in a nervous patient a sense of giddiness which led to nausea, and had a very bad effect indeed. I thought at first that the complaint made against this paper by the patient was rather absurd, but when I tried for myself the experiment of looking for a few minutes at the rings of the pattern, I actually became, against my will, subject to giddiness also, and to a sense of nausea which was most unpleasant. The fact led me at once to tear up a prescription I had written as a sedative for stomachic disturbance, and to order instead a screen which should shut off the sight of the objectionable wall, and which proved, in fact, an effective remedy."

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