

not only those now present, but also the larger number whom my words will reach through the Press. There is a certain amount of misapprehension concerning various details of the Association which, I think, had better be put straight. I have had a little fault found with me (but that is nothing unusual) as to not having sent invitations to various Members to come to this Meeting. As a matter of fact, I have no right to invite anyone, whether they are British Nurses at Timbuctoo or in the capital of the midland counties. The Members have a perfect right, and, indeed, it is their duty, to walk in and do their business. I cannot invite them, nor can anyone else. It is not my fault, and I should step out of my place if I did particularly invite anyone. Another matter is, that we have a great deal of expense at the office because Members will not send us their changes of address. If they would only send the change of address by post-card, then we should not have the difficulty we have. Very often a Member comes to the office, and says, "I haven't had my papers." I say I am sorry, and ask, "Where are you living now?" The reply is, "I quite forgot to let you know I had changed my address." It is necessary to send a change of address, because the post-office cannot find everyone who moves from one locality to another. Another misapprehension is, that Members who have not paid their annual subscription have ceased to be Members, and there are certain arrears which I should very much like to see paid up, because we cannot work the British Nurses' Association without money. (Hear, hear.) People, if they do not pay their subscriptions, do not cease to be Members. Indeed, I want it to be known that, as long as a person retains Membership, that person is liable to pay the subscription. Their only course, if they wish to be taken off the roll of Members, is to send their card of Membership back to the office, with any arrears of subscription. To cease to pay subscriptions does not cause Membership to cease; it only gives us a great deal of trouble and expense.

MISS WOOD then read out the names of those proposed as the General Council for the ensuing year, and moved that the General Council so formed should be duly elected.

MISS HUMFREY seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

MISS WOOD proposed, "That the annual subscription for future Nurses be five shillings, or a life subscription of two guineas, and that Members of the Medical profession be admitted as life Members on the payment of one guinea, and that Bye-Law XIII. be altered accordingly." She said: In laying this resolution before you, I

think we are only following what has been done in many societies, and that is, that those who had the courage of their opinions, and came forward in the early stages, should enjoy the privileges of Membership upon easier terms than is necessary afterwards; so that the resolution which I am proposing is not a retrospective one. It does not concern those who are now Members, but only those who become Members in the future. Now we number nearly three thousand Members, and these are all over the country and the Colonies, and I think we may fairly say we will in future make our terms a little bit stiffer. We have made the professional terms of qualification for Membership more decided. No Nurse can be a Member who has not had at least twelve consecutive months in a General Hospital. Now I want you to carry this resolution, to increase the subscription to five shillings. Consider what has been read out in our Report—we are placing Members on a professional basis by giving them a Register. The Association now will proceed to do something for their pecuniary benefit, and I am exceedingly anxious, from what I know of Nurses, to bring about a benevolent scheme—a fund out of which Nurses can get help in times of sickness and trouble and loss, such as from fire or shipwreck or anything of that kind. We cannot do this without money, and I have no doubt the general public will help us to some extent, but I think we can go upon a higher basis. Instead of saying, "We poor Nurses haven't got the money to pay for what we want," I think we should subscribe to help ourselves—the richer to help the poorer. There are about 15,000 Nurses in the United Kingdom, and if the 12,000 at present left out in the cold would come in at the increased subscription, the association would be not only powerful but rich. I do not think it is too much to ask the Nurses to pay, for the advantages they will get. With regard to the second part of the resolution the medical men might say, "Well, what do we get for the ten and sixpence which we subscribe?" Well, I honestly say they get next to nothing. They get to know from our Registration work who is a Trained Nurse, and who is not, but that is really all. I do not think we should ask Doctors then to give the same as a Matron, namely, ten and sixpence. We want their help, their advice, their assistance; they are in every way most valuable members of the Nurses' Association, and it seems to me we are doing the proper thing by asking them to pay only a guinea, which makes them members for life. On that side of the resolution there will not be much debate, but on the other side I dare say there will be some debate, but before coming to that, just cast round, and

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