

think where the pennies and the sixpences go, and say whether the Association shall be put on a footing of dignity and self-respect by ourselves rather than that others should do it for us. (Hear, hear.) I beg to move the resolution.

DR. WYNN WESTCOTT, in seconding the resolution, said: I can only say that the matter was brought before a Council Meeting at which I was present, and if I remember correctly there was no word said in opposition to the proposal. I don't think the sum a large one, and I don't think you will find it so when you have actually to pay it. I should like to point out that the Association being still in its infancy, the benefits you have already received may be small, but the benefits in the future, when the Benevolent Fund comes into actual work, will be much greater to all of you. With regard to the medical men, I cannot agree with Miss Wood's argument that they get nothing out of the Association. Speaking as one who has the honour to be brought into association with so many eminent Nurses, I would say that it is quite sufficient pleasure for myself without any other benefit. (Hear, hear.)

DR. BEDFORD FENWICK, in supporting the resolution, said: I have shown the meeting that we are financially in a good position, and I have also shown that we saved out of last year's subscriptions about £160. That is all very well, but when I came to dissect the figures, I found it was quite impossible with the present income of the Association to do in future more than live—that is to say, it is impossible for the Association to undertake one single scheme more than it has already undertaken. But we do not mean to stand still; the aim of the Association is to go forward, and to undertake one thing after another. Yet it is simply impossible to go forward, and do more than we are now doing, unless we have larger resources. There is one thing upon which I feel very keenly, and upon which I know I have the strong support of Miss Wood and members of the Council, and that is the establishment of a journal. We are a very scattered body; we are not all together, not even all over England, but all over the British Empire. It is impossible to keep in touch with such widely scattered Members, even if we can keep in touch with the Members throughout England, unless we have some organ of our own—a paper going to Members regularly, telling them what we are doing, and telling them what we want them to do. And the only way to do this is by issuing a paper free to Members. It has come to this point—a journal is absolutely necessary to the advancement of the Association. As everyone knows, there are certain weak-kneed people in this world who are easily frightened by opposition, and by

means of a journal we can strengthen their feeble hands by showing them the poverty and hollowness of the opposition to which we are subjected. The British Medical Association succeeded not at all until it started its journal. We can claim we have succeeded—and without one—and there is a curious confirmation of that claim. In 1834 the British Medical Association held its second annual meeting in Birmingham, a fact of which we were entirely ignorant when we arranged to hold our second annual meeting here to-day. In 1834, the President, addressing the Second Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association, congratulated it upon the great success which had attended its progress, seeing that the Association numbered four hundred and fifty Members. That was a success up to that time unprecedented in professional societies. We meet in Birmingham to-day for our Second Annual Meeting, and we meet with a roll-call of nearly three thousand. Now, if the British Medical Association succeeded in its first two years, we may claim to have achieved a sevenfold measure of success. We want to consolidate that success, and we want Members to know what is going on. So we want a Journal, and it is impossible to have a Journal without we have increased support from Members. At the General Council Meeting Sir James Crichton Browne said that if we were asking for increased subscriptions we were only doing what other Associations had done in the past. In fact, we are asking those who were afraid to come and join us while fighting to pay a little more for their caution, not to say their cowardice. The Association has had a hard and an uphill battle to fight, and it has practically won. It is only fair that those Members who came forward at first—those who have borne the burden and heat of the day—should receive substantial reward and recognition, and it can be recognised by the way we advocate—the payment of the double annual or life subscription by those who join the Association in the future. I may say that, with reference to the Journal, the Annual Report this year will be printed as usual, because the Journal could not appear before the end of this year, or the beginning of next.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

DR. BEDFORD FENWICK: I have to announce that, within the last two or three months, an Association has been formed in America called the "American Nurses' Association." It is formed practically upon the same lines as this Association, and is, I have been informed, the outcome of this union of Nurses. We hope the American Association will be as successful as ours. I think we cannot do less than express our

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)