

successful year. Tired Nurses, in increasing numbers, from all parts of the southern half of England and Wales, now find the rest and refreshment of which they stand in such need, in this real Home. They gratefully recognise the debt of gratitude they owe to Her Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN for the active interest she has taken in the Home, and to Mrs. LIONEL LUCAS for the great generosity with which she has assisted its finances.

THE TRAINED NURSES' ANNUITY FUND, which, as our readers know, owes its existence chiefly to Lady BLOOMFIELD, has, during the past year, continued its good work—giving pensions of £15 a year each to Nurses who are superannuated. It is slowly accumulating further funds for the enlargement of the benefits which it thus bestows.

#### THE NURSES' CO-OPERATION

has, during 1893, rapidly grown in numbers and usefulness. The success of this idea, enunciated by the Royal British Nurses' Association in 1888, has, therefore, been amply established, and it may confidently be expected that, in future, similar schemes will be commenced in other parts of the country. The anticipated results have already been markedly attained in London; several of the Nurse-farms, which formerly sweated Nurses to a gross extent, having died out. The extension of the principle, during the next year, it may safely be anticipated, will cause a very marked diminution in the receipts of those few pseudo-charitable Institutions which still maintain the indefensible system of sending out semi-trained women, to the deception of the public. We remarked at the time, that the first bell which rung for a Nurse at the Co-operation, was the death-knell of the old bad system, and we now can easily diagnose that it is moribund. We go so far as to believe that, within two years, no Private Nursing Staff will be in existence in connection with any public Institution, in London, unless it is managed upon the co-operative system—the surplus profits being either divided amongst the earners, or set aside to form pensions for them.

#### THE FIRST NURSING EXHIBITION

will also make the year that is past, memorable in Nursing annals. It is generally conceded that the exposition of British Nursing appliances at the World's Fair, at Chicago, was most creditable to the progress of our Art, and the fact that no less than five Medals were awarded for the excellence of the exhibits, is the most satisfactory proof of their excellence. We have pleasure in announcing that we have consented to organize a Nursing Section in connection with the forthcoming International Exhibition, and past experience encourages us to hope that we shall receive, in due course, much hearty co-operation in the preparation of this important work. The conference of Nurses which took place at

Chicago, in June, in connection with the Hospital section, was also an event of importance, as we believe it was the first organized Meeting of Trained Nurses in the United States. And a similar gathering which has recently been held in Holland, shows once more how widely the example of the Royal British Nurses' Association is permeating amongst other nations.

#### PRACTICAL NURSING.

Turning now to the various branches of practical work, the past year is memorable for the new departures made by the Glasgow Royal Infirmary in its elaborate scheme of preliminary education and examination; by University College and the Sussex County Hospitals in making all Probationers pay a premium for their training—a principle which will, doubtless, receive much wider acceptance during the next few months; and by St. Bartholomew's Hospital in extending its term of engagement for Probationers to four years, and requiring that all Probationers should pass a preliminary examination before their admission to the wards. In District Nursing, the rapid growth of the influence and usefulness of the Jubilee Institute has been very marked; and we trust that the time will soon arrive when the standard of training, necessary for a Queen's Nurse, will be raised to the modern term. In Home Hospital Nursing, also another but more quiet revolution is being effected. This field of work is being occupied by well-trained Nurses to the natural expulsion of amateurs, who with a light heart have hitherto undertaken the care of sick folk, although devoid of any knowledge or experience of the responsibilities therewith connected. Unfortunately, the idea has got abroad that the profits to be made in this branch are very great, and many have embarked their whole savings in such ventures, and have lost everything in a short space of time. It cannot be too clearly understood that the public now requires in a Nursing Home every luxury, for which most are very unwilling to pay adequately; and yet if the best of Nursing be not provided, the Home will speedily cease to attract patients, and its proprietors will lose, instead of making, money.

We cannot close this retrospect without expressing to those, who have so loyally assisted us and our predecessor in the management of this journal, the grateful thanks which are their due. For the kindly letters of sympathy, of appreciation, and of promised assistance, which we have received from correspondents in every part of the world, we also feel deep gratitude. While asking our readers individually to help us in our onerous work during 1894, by sending us nursing and hospital news from their several localities, we cordially wish them, one and all, good health and every happiness, much pleasure and prosperity throughout the coming New Year.

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