

the Bradford charities, and about a hundred friends of the Institution were present.

"The Mayor having briefly opened the proceedings, Dr. Goyder stated the case of the Bradford Incorporated Nurses' Institution in relation to Bradford work. The Institution had, he said, hitherto consisted of two departments: first, for providing Nurses for private and hospital work, for which payment is received from the patients or their friends, or from hospital boards; and, secondly, district nursing, or the nursing of the sick poor in their own homes, for which no payment is made, but which is purely charitable work, the wages and cost of Nurses being defrayed out of subscriptions and funds of the Institution. During the last few years the charitable work had been doubled, whilst the subscriptions towards its support had sunk to one-half. The value of the work had long been proven by the gratitude of the poor sufferers and their friends, and by the testimony of the medical attendants; but the greatest proof of its value and necessity lay in the increasing demand for the services of the district Nurses. This demand had now become so great, and had extended so far beyond the limits of the districts mapped out, that it had been found impossible to overtake all the cases recommended, notwithstanding that the staff had been augmented, and the energies of the Nurses had been overtaxed to such an extent as to threaten their complete breakdown. This large and progressive increase of work, regarded in the light of the utter inadequacy of the means to carry it on, had brought to a crisis the whole question of how district nursing should be continued by the Institution. Each district cost the Institution about £90 a year, or a sum of £270 for the three districts in operation, and should the fourth Nurse be continued, the outlay must exceed £300 a year. The net income of the Institution for district nursing through subscriptions was only £120, so that to pursue district nursing on the present plan would involve a loss to the funds of about £200 a year. This money has come hitherto out of the earnings of the Nurses who attended the private or paying cases. But the application of the whole profits of their earnings to the work of charitable nursing was neither just nor politic. It being found, then, that the wages the Nurses received were not equal to those of other kindred Institutions, the committee have felt bound, during the last few months, to increase and equalise their remuneration to the standard of the better Institutions in the kingdom. The accommodation and comfort of the Home for Nurses were also insufficient, and the committee had, therefore, been compelled to commence, and had now completed, an enlargement of the Home, which would provide for all necessities, but at a cost which must swallow up all the available profits of the Nurses' earnings. These steps of mere justice to the nursing staff of the Institution placed it entirely out of the power of the committee to continue the district charitable work upon the present footing. The committee suggested that the continuance of the work could only be effected by enlisting the sympathy and active help of the ladies of each district of the town. These might form a committee, and secure from those able and willing to give them in such districts the funds necessary to support the Nurse. The Institution would gladly act as the central committee to co-operate with the ladies in organizing and conducting the work, and, as far as its funds permitted, would defray a portion of the expenses, and supply the Nurses, affording them house and board. All subscriptions and donations supplied to the Nursing Institution for district charitable nursing would be, as they always had been, devoted solely to this charitable work.—A resolution was passed urging the extension of the resources of the Bradford Nursing Institution, and an appeal was made to the ladies present to assist in re-organising the basis of the Institution and in extending its work."

It seems almost incredible, after all that has been written condemning this system of depriving

Nurses of the just reward of their arduous labours, in order to pay for the district nursing of the sick poor, that such a system is still in vogue in a wealthy city like Bradford. And it proves once again how terribly callous are the persons who conduct some nursing institutions, not only to public opinion, but to right and justice, where the labour of women is concerned. Dr. GOYDER is to be earnestly congratulated that he has brought the fact before the managers of the Bradford Nurses' Institution, that the poor of the town owe much of their relief in sickness to the forced generosity of the private Nurses of this Institution. That such a system is permitted to continue, we have no hesitation in stating, is a disgrace to the wealthy inhabitants of Bradford, which they will do well to wipe out by liberal subscriptions towards a District Nurses' Fund.

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DURING the past year we have frequently called public and professional attention to this scandalous sweating of Nurses in order that the benevolently inclined of certain towns may be able to perform their "charity on the cheap"—at the Nurses expense. We are glad to know that our remonstrances have aroused considerable excitement amongst some such philanthropists, and have resulted, in several instances, in the abolition of this pernicious system. Until it has disappeared from the land, we shall continue to pillory the District Nursing Societies which live by sweating their Private Nurses.

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FROM the current report, the Aberdeen District Nurses' Association, which is in connection with Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, is in a very satisfactory condition. The quarterly meeting of the General Committee was recently held in the Home, 144, King Street. Dr. ANGUS FRASER presided, and there was a large attendance. A letter was read from Miss PETER, Inspector of Nursing, who has lately visited Aberdeen and inspected the Nurses' Home and District work. She says:—"The nursing is excellent, and much is done for the patients' comfort. I have a very good report of the work of the Association to put before the Council in London." Miss ARMSTRONG'S report for the last quarter showed that 153 patients had been nursed during the past three months, and 3,171 visits had been paid. The chairman reported that through private generosity the staff was to be increased, so as to allow of a Nurse being established at Woodside, where such help is greatly required.

NATIONAL HEALTH SOCIETY.—Arrangements have been made by which Nurses may attend the special Training Courses of Lectures at half fees. See further particulars on page iii.

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