

£433 4s. 3d., it will, I am sure, be fully recognised that our friends have done much to relieve the Association of its immediate financial difficulties, and to them I desire to express my warmest thanks.

JOHN LANGTON,  
Hon. Treasurer.

December 31st, 1896.

This Report having been adopted unanimously, Dr. Griffith and Dr. Calvert asked that as the letters of objection had not been read to the Council they should be referred to the Committee which was considering the question of mental Nurses.

Mr. Fardon, Medical Honorary Secretary, read the Report of the Executive Committee as follows :

#### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*To the General Council, Jan. 8th, 1897.*

THE Executive Committee beg to report that 98 Nurses have been registered, 67 new Members have been elected, 17 have withdrawn, and 2 have died during the past three months.

The Annual Conversazione, held at the Portman Rooms on December 18th, was largely attended by Members and their friends. Her Royal Highness, the President, graciously presented the Badge of the Association to upwards of 40 Members, including both Nurses and medical men, and afterwards remained to listen to an excellent concert, most kindly contributed by Mdle. Giulia Ravogli, Mons. Johannes Wolff, and other well-known artistes.

The proposal to admit, under certain conditions, Mental Nurses to Registration and Membership, which has already been brought before the Council, has now been REFERRED TO the Executive Committee for consideration.

The Executive Committee have rescinded the Resolution of 17th October, 1893, by which the *ex-officio* Members of the Executive Committee were constituted Members of the Registration Board, the Registration Board now consisting entirely of elected Members, H.R.H. the President, the Hon. Treasurer, and the Hon. Secretaries.

The action brought by Miss Breay against Sir James Crichton-Browne, the Chairman of the Annual Meeting on July 22nd, for ruling out of order a Resolution standing in her name upon the Agenda, has now been decided. The case was first tried in the City of London Court, and a verdict given for the Plaintiff with a farthing damages, but on an appeal to the Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench that decision was reversed and the verdict ordered to be entered for the Defendant with costs, Mr. Justice Wills saying, "We feel it a very vexatious proceeding," and Mr. Justice Wright remarking, "Speaking for myself, had this been put into a statement of claim I should have struck it out as being frivolous and vexatious." An application for leave to appeal from this judgment was refused.

At the recent Conference of the National Union of Women Workers held at Manchester, the Royal British Nurses' Association was ably represented by Miss G. Scott, late Matron of the Sussex County Hospital.

The Committee much regret that Miss Ravenhill, the Secretary to the Association, has been compelled,

under medical orders, definitely to resign her appointment, and the Committee, whilst feeling obliged to accept her resignation, desire to record their high sense of the zeal and ability with which Miss Ravenhill has discharged her duties, and their good wishes for her future prosperity and success.

The demonstrations on Invalid Cookery have been much appreciated. The average attendance has been between 30 and 40, and great satisfaction has been expressed at the admirable instruction of Miss Earle.

The Association is indebted to Mr. Isenthal for a very interesting and well attended lecture on the "Röntgen Rays," and to Sir Dyce Duckworth, Dr. Thorne Thorne, and others, for valuable gifts of books to the Library.

The adoption of the Report having been proposed and seconded, Mr. Fardon referred at considerable length to the report in the *Standard* of the meeting held at St. Martin's Town Hall the previous day, with special reference to the words there ascribed to Dr. Bedford Fenwick, and expressed the hope that the Meeting would take some notice of them.

As no one responded to Mr. Fardon's invitation, Dr. Bedford Fenwick rose and claimed his right to speak upon this matter, alluding to the fact that at the last Meeting of the Council he had been prevented from defending himself against a deliberate attack made upon him by Sir James Crichton-Browne, and he once more protested against that most un-English like proceeding. He expressed no surprise that Mr. Fardon should consider it fair to quote and comment upon a report in a daily paper which condensed a speech of some ten minutes' duration into seven or eight lines. But so far as his reference to the manner in which free speech had been prevented at meetings of the Association, they had only to go back to the last Meeting of that Council when he had been denied the elementary right of defending himself from an attack then made upon him; or to previous meetings of that Council, when by unworthy methods matters of importance to the Corporation had been prevented from being discussed; or to the last Annual Meeting, when a law suit followed the denial of the right of free speech—to know that his statement on that matter could not be contradicted.

Amidst constant and disorderly interruptions, Dr. Fenwick then commented upon the matter referred to in the Report, of the admission of Mental Nurses to registration and membership. He objected most strongly to the irregularity and secrecy with which this matter had been discussed and practically settled; it had been kept back from the Executive Committee until its last meeting and then when it was seen how much public indignation was arising against it, the officials brought it forward, and on their proposition the Executive appointed a Sub-committee to consider the question, composed of persons who had already publicly pledged themselves to carry out the scheme. Such a proceeding was a mere farce and would inevitably fail in its object. He had taken a prominent part not only in starting the Association but in starting the Register, and now that he had carefully considered this question, he spoke with deliberation in saying that the proposal to admit Asylum Attendants upon the Register of Trained Nurses would, if carried out, ruin the Register, deceive the public, and do irreparable

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