

lished accounts of last year makes it plain that a somewhat similar proportion last year, also, declined to assist the Association. The life members, moreover, in considerable numbers, are known to disapprove of the present policy; but as they have paid their life subscriptions, they cannot evince their disapproval in the same manner by withdrawing their financial support.

It only requires a very simple proportional calculation to realise that if one-third of the members of the Association have practically declined to support it any longer, in a brief space of time, the Association's numbers will be reduced to the vanishing point. The fact that less than 1,300 members now subscribe is too significant of the extreme weakness to which the officials have reduced the Association to require any special comment; but it is sufficient to prove our first contention that the nurse members of the Association have lost confidence in the management and decline to support it, in the only possible manner—namely, by their annual subscriptions. It has been proved to them conclusively during the last three years that nothing is being done for their benefit; and that the schemes which were formerly carried out with success, are now one by one failing; so that their abstention can hardly be a matter for surprise.

The crucial fact proved at the recent Annual Meeting that, during the last year, no less than £700 had been spent on office expenses and salaries is alone sufficient to condemn the extravagance of the present management. But when, to that, is added the fact that during the past twelve months a miserable, paltry, *twelve shillings* is all that was spent in benevolent grants to members in distress, no further proof could be asked for, as no greater proof could be given, that the officials have ceased to carry out the first principles of the Association, and that the Corporation has ceased to be of the slightest use to the nurse members. In other words, it has ceased to fulfil the objects for which it was founded, and for which it was incorporated. As it undoubtedly did fulfil those objects, successfully, for six years, the blame for the present failure must be laid at the door of the officials alone.

There is, however, an even wider question to be considered, because, as we have said, the Association was intended for *all* trained nurses, and if its benefits be withheld from them the whole nursing profession suffers.

## Annotations.

### A WISE DECISION.

"ALL things come to those who wait," and it is with the greatest satisfaction that we are able to record a reform concerning the nursing of the sick for which we have waited long. The Local Government Board has, we are glad to observe, decreed that in future no paupers shall be employed as nurses. It was inevitable that this decision should ultimately be arrived at, but, to those who have at heart the efficient nursing of the sick poor, the waiting time has seemed long. We heartily congratulate the Local Government Board upon its recent decision, and also upon the new order, that in any Workhouse where there are more than three female nurses a superintendent shall be appointed, who must be a person qualified for the appointment, by having undergone, for three years at least, a course of instruction in the medical and surgical wards of any hospital or infirmary, being a training school for nurses, and maintaining a resident Physician or House Surgeon. The effect of this order will be, in our opinion, to raise the standard of nursing in Workhouses to an extent which it is almost impossible to foresee, although unhappily there is, we are afraid, occasion for future friction in the fact, that in matters not connected with the treatment of the sick, the superintendent nurse is to be under the direction of the master or matron of the Workhouse. We have previously expressed the opinion that if the matrons of Workhouses were selected from the ranks of trained nurses the best class of nurses would much more readily apply for Workhouse appointments, and many present difficulties would cease to exist.

### NUNS AS NURSES.

WE understand that a movement is being promoted by which Irish nuns are to be instructed by highly trained ladies in the duties of district nurses, in order that they may afford skilled nursing help to the poor who may need their services. Such an effort is worthy of all praise, only we hope that the good sisters, who are to benefit by this instruction, will understand that it is impossible for them to become efficient nurses if they pick and choose the cases which they will nurse. The duty of nurses is to care for the *sick* whether or no the care which is necessary entails the performance of many duties which are distasteful to the nurse, and an

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