

gladly acknowledge any subscriptions to the fund for the sick and wounded in connection with the hostilities that have broken out between America and Spain. The Countess heads the list with sixty guineas, and intends remitting the money direct to the Queen of Spain to be used at her Majesty's discretion.

A HUNDRED sick men, many of whom have just come from active service, arrived at Aldershot on Monday for treatment at the three hospital stations, Netley being full.

THE SEVENTH Annual Report of the Committee of Management of the Nurses' Co-operation, 8, New Cavendish Street, points to the continued success of the society. One of the most satisfactory features of the report is the noticeable fact that the Committee of Management and the Finance Committee are composed so largely of nurses. A point, which we think requires some elucidation, is the position of the "Nurses on the Staff" in the Co-operation. If they hold the position of the employés of those ladies and gentlemen, professional and non-professional, who, presumably are incorporated as "Members of the Nurses' Co-operation" we think that the position is an undignified one for them to accept. The nurses by whose work the success of the co-operation has been gained should, surely one and all, be members of their own society.

It has been rumoured of late that the Nurses' Co-operation had adopted the standard of nursing now required by our leading training schools, and admitted to its ranks only nurses who had received three years' training. It is, therefore, the more disappointing to find from the report that the regulations do not enforce this standard. The following are the regulations to which nurses, who become members of the co-operation, are required to conform. "(a) No nurse will be admitted to the general staff unless she has had three years' experience of nursing, of which two have been spent in the wards of a general hospital connected with a recognised training school. (b) Nurses taking mental cases only, must have had one year's training in a general hospital connected with a recognised training school, in addition to two years' training in an asylum containing not less than fifty patients. (c) Nurses taking maternity cases only, must hold a monthly or midwifery certificate from a recognised lying-in hospital, and must have had one year's training in a general hospital connected with a recognised training school, in addition to two years' experience of monthly nursing."

ONE of the most satisfactory features of the report is that of the Finance Committee. The

excess of income during the past year over the expenditure was £1,255 2s. 2d. Of this sum £700 has been invested. The Co-operation at present possesses invested capital to the amount of £4,330 17s. 10d., so that the financial position of the Society is excellent. The income of the Society for the last year derived from the Commission on Fees was £2,755 13s. 9d., and £71 17s. 4d. from interest on investments. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating" and the Nurses' Co-operation has proved, beyond dispute, that it is possible for nurses by combination, to take their own fees, manage their own affairs, and make their Society a great success.

A CORRESPONDENCE is in process in the *Birmingham Gazette* on the perennial question of the trained nurse, and her treatment by hospital authorities, in which the management at the General Hospital is criticised. Things may not yet be perfect in this institution—we do not know a hospital where they are—but it must be acknowledged that immense strides have been made in perfecting the accommodation, food and work of the nursing staff of late years, and also that it is impossible to organise the nursing department of this large new institution in a few months. Much has been done—more remains to do—and we have no doubt that progress will be surely and certainly made in the right direction. Nothing is finite to the far-seeing, and the persons who preen themselves upon having attained perfection, are usually those who do not grasp the futility of the word.

WE are glad to observe that there appears to be one sensible person on the committee of the Llanelly Hospital. At the meeting of the General Committee at which it was announced that the resignations of the whole nursing staff had been accepted—"Mr. Gwilym Evans, J.P., said that during the dual control of the institution they could not expect it to be carried on satisfactorily. He expressed the opinion that the matron ought to have the selection of her own assistants and servants, and submit a list to the Management Committee. She could not satisfactorily carry on the work whilst the Management Committee interfered." Why pay a matron, if the Management Committee and Medical Staff insist on performing her duties? From the financial report the hospital is badly supported—surely this puppet in petticoats might be dispensed with!

WE hear that fever is rampant in Pieterberg, in South Africa, chiefly amongst young men, for whom no nursing accommodation is available, and trained nurses are urgently needed. In epidemics how warmly are nurses welcomed. We then hear less of their little peculiarities and faults.

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