

which the Committee of the Society have cordially endorsed, and have consistently carried out, ever since. First, that only the best class of trained nurses should be eligible for membership, and, secondly, that only a sufficient number should be elected to meet the demands made upon the Society by the public. It was notorious, for example, four years ago, that the nurses elected at many Private Nursing Institutions, were chosen without any definite standard of professional experience or education, and that they were accepted moreover in large numbers. The natural consequences were that, on the one hand, many of the nurses did not hold a high professional standing, nor did they obtain the complete confidence of their patients; and, on the other hand, as the supply exceeded the demand for their services, a considerable number of such nurses were always out of work.

In the Registered Nurses' Society, the effects of the principles to which we have referred have been most satisfactory. The members have gained, on all sides, the most emphatic commendation both from patients and medical men; and in four years there have not been four complaints received—a fact, the importance of which cannot be minimised, nor regarded with too much satisfaction. In fact, the chief and only drawback during the last two years, has been the number of members who have married!

In the second place, the restriction of the membership of the Society, while it has not infrequently led to the Secretary being unable to supply nurses, has enabled the members to keep in almost constant employment; and the Society having been fortunate enough to obtain the support of many of the leading Physicians and Surgeons in London, the class of cases has been most advantageous both to the Society and its members. The fact that, during the past year, no less than 115 new medical practitioners have come to the Society, for the first time, for nurses, while those who had previously supported it have continued to do so, is an eloquent proof of the rapidly growing appreciation in which the Society is held, by those who are best able to estimate its work and usefulness.

So far as the Nurses are concerned, the Report shows that the earnings of those who have worked continuously during the past year have varied from £129 3s. to £84—the average being no less than £99 7s. 4d., for an average of forty and a-half weeks' work. As almost

every nurse took eight weeks' holiday in addition, there is good reason to believe that there is no other nursing institution which can show such figures, and that no other Co-operation affords equal benefits to its members.

Finally, the Society has this year made a new departure which is worthy of note. Originally, it was started, and its preliminary expenses paid, by the members of the Committee. As the Nurses took no part in the financial responsibilities, they, of course, had no voice in its management. But, now that the Society is established on a secure financial basis, and has become a great practical success, the Committee have appointed upon their body the six senior nurses on the roll, and in future two of these will retire each year, their places being taken by the next two senior members. By this means, each member of the Society will, in her turn, serve for three years upon the Committee of Management, and thus take her share in the control of, and financial responsibility for, her Society. With the remarkable results already achieved, the Registered Nurses' Society can confidently look forward to increasing success and prosperity in the future.

Annotations.

MYSTERIOUS MANŒUVRES.

WE learn from *St. Mary's Hospital Gazette* that "The Committee of inspection of the Prince of Wales' Fund visited St. Mary's on July 13th, consisting of Mr. Croft, Consulting Surgeon to St. Thomas' Hospital, and Mr. Marshall, of the firm of Marshall and Snelgrove. The inspection was formal and thorough, and, we believe, eminently satisfactory."

We are glad to get this little glimpse of the method of inspection of the Prince's Fund, because, as we have complained on a previous occasion, the Hon. Secretary of the Fund "is not in a position to add to the information in your possession," and it answers the question which we addressed to the Hon. Secretary.

We ventured to ask what women experts had been selected to act on the four sub-committees, to represent the Nurses' and women's interests in this investigation? We also ventured to remark that if the nursing and domestic departments, which are under the direction of women were to be inquired into by men, it would render the inquiry ridiculous. As far as we know, Messrs. Marshall and Snelgrove do not even possess

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