

London Sisters at those private nurses' co-operations managed upon business-like lines.

The report also showed that there were 97 nurses on the roll on 1st October, 1899, 53 new nurses had been elected during the year, 19 nurses had resigned on account of marriage or superior appointments, leaving 131 on the roll at the end of September last. The demand for nurses of the Co-operation continued steadily to increase, and on several occasions a considerable number of applications had to be refused. The number of cases attended was 1,174, as compared with 1,002 in the previous year, an increase of 172. The gross sum earned by the nurses during the year amounted to £7,186, as compared with £5,936, being an increase of £1,249 16s. 4d. Two nurses earned £88 each, one £81, seventeen from £70 to £79, and the average over all for the year was from £65 to £75, allowing one month for holidays.

The treasurer's statement of accounts showed that the income for the year ending 30th September amounted to £918 16s. 3d., and the expenditure was £625 14s. 4½d., and the balance, the surplus for the year, £274 odd, has been transferred to capital account.

The Lord Provost moved the adoption of the reports. He did so with very great pleasure not only on account of the great amount of excellent work done by the institution, but because it was not combined with any appeal to the public for support financially. It was a gratifying feature of this work that after a comparatively brief period of struggle and effort to obtain a footing, and having once been put upon its own foundation, the institution had asserted its vitality, and was now earning an adequate income for itself. He had observed in despatches from the front that it was sometimes stated that the sick were "doing well," and his lordship thought that that simple phrase was not insignificant, but told a tale in marked contrast to the state of affairs that existed before we had such hospitals and such nurses as, thank God, we had to-day. For her devotion to duty, and her readiness to face all risks at home or abroad, he thought the trained nurse deserved the highest credit and recognition on the part of the public. He had to express his high appreciation of the work, the excellent work, done under the auspices of the co-operation. Mrs. Ross Taylor seconded, and the reports were approved.

On the minutes of the Hospitals Committee, held in Glasgow, and submitted by the Committee to the meeting of the Glasgow Corporation Police

Department, the following paragraph appears:— "The convener submitted letter from the Matron of Belvidere Hospital on the subject of the extra remuneration to the nurses (15) who had attended the patients suffering from plague, and intimating that the nurses would prefer some small medal to a money payment, and the sub-committee agreed to recommend that it be remitted to the convener to obtain a badge or medal to be presented to each of those nurses as a souvenir of their services, in addition to the money payment of £2 each already authorised."

We are not surprised that the nurses preferred the Badge, and we are glad to see that it has been awarded to them; but, apparently, they are to "eat their cake and have it too," as they are also to receive the extra pecuniary payment originally suggested. No doubt they deserve both.

We have received from Messrs. T. Nelson and Sons, a copy of "A Sister of the Red Cross," a Story of Ladysmith, by L. T. Meade. We do not think that Mrs. Meade has attained to her usual standard of excellence in the present story, possibly because she dealt with the question from the outside point of view rather than that of one who was acquainted with the matters with which she dealt. The heroine of the story, "A Sister of the Red Cross," had charge of a hospital in Ladysmith during the siege, but a good deal of the story is taken up with the affairs of the younger sister of the nurse, who makes her debut by stealing the purse belonging to another person in order to pay her dressmaker's bill. This same "Kitty" has got into debt in order that she may dress herself effectively to attract the admiration of the man she loves, and to whom she succeeds in becoming engaged. Is it conceivable that this young man, having discovered her crime and restored the stolen money to its legitimate owner, should, while caring for her sister, deliberately propose marriage to the thief? Yet this is what we are asked to believe.

Kitty eventually follows her fiancé, who is ordered on active service in the present war, to South Africa, and is shut up in Ladysmith during the siege. The moral of the book appears to be that selfish, hysterical, and exacting women are out of place in the stern realities of war. If "Kitty" is a fair sample of the society ladies who found their way to the front, we do not wonder at Mr. Treves' strictures on the "plague of women."

Did a nurse ever talk to her patient in the manner described? We doubt it. Here is a

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