

to call a public meeting in Glasgow with a view to creating interest in the Fund in the West of Scotland. It was also arranged to hold similar meetings in Dundee, Perth, and Aberdeen. Sir David Richmond emphasised the point that the fund was intended for the benefit of the smaller and poorer colonies and dependencies of the Empire.

We are apt to consider those who dwell north of the Tweed "unco' canny," but the discussion on the retiring allowance of the late Matron at the Annual Meeting of the subscribers to the Stirling Royal Infirmary, shows them in a most ungenerous light. It will be remembered that Miss Falconer was Matron of this institution for 28 years, that she was a most devoted official to the hospital, and was justly esteemed. The Committee recommended a retiring allowance of £35 annually, and in moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman said: "The subscribers would learn with regret of the resignation of Miss Falconer. She came to the infirmary when it was started with the salary now given to a nurse. She kept the wards in the most perfect condition, and he never heard a complaint of the way in which the patients were attended to. In addition, she collected £470 for the furnishing of the wards, and secured many annual subscribers. In accepting her resignation, the directors felt that she was fully entitled to the allowance recommended in the report, and that she would retire with the gratitude and affection of hundreds and hundreds of patients who had passed through her hands."

It is almost incredible that the proposal gave rise to opposition, and a direct negative was moved, and when this was defeated, a further vote took place, as to whether the pension should be £35 or £20. By a casting vote of the Chairman, this lady, who has devoted her working life to the interest of the hospital, was ultimately granted £35, or a little over 13s. a week! Somehow one does not hanker after service in the Royal Infirmary, Stirling!

The first annual meeting of the Nurses' Club was held on Wednesday evening, the 13th Nov., at 7.30 o'clock. The President, Miss Huxley, gave a very gratifying account of the progress of the Club. During the year about 4,000 visits were paid by the members, who number over 500, and they introduced more than 300 visitors.

The financial statement submitted was satisfactory, the accounts closing with a good balance, showing the appreciation with which this new movement has been received by the Nurses.

Miss MacDonnell was elected Vice-President for the ensuing year, and in order to develop the work, and deepen the interest of the members, three Sub-Committees were formed to arrange for lectures, provide a library, and organise social evenings.

The dates of various lectures were announced and the members expressed themselves deeply grateful to the medical profession for their help in giving them.

We heartily congratulate the nurses in having succeeded in organising such an important movement, and wish them every success.

The subject of nursing by nuns in Irish Workhouse Infirmaries was, some few years ago, the cause of a lengthy correspondence between various Roman Catholic Bishops and the Local Government Board for Ireland. There is much to be said in favour of nursing by nuns in Irish Infirmaries. They have in many instances improved the cleanliness and tone of these institutions, their presence goes some way towards removing the objections of the sick poor to entering the infirmaries, and they are of the same religion as the majority of their patients. At the same time difficulties will always arise, and objections be felt by many to their appointment, until they cease to claim any dispensations on the ground of their religious qualifications, whether with regard to the length of training required, or to exemption from the performance of certain duties.

Further, we must say that we fail to understand the right of the Bishops to take action in the matter. Granted that Religious Orders are, as regards their religious discipline, subject to the control of the Bishop of the Diocese, if the Bench of Bishops is to assume their professional control also, a serious objection is at once raised to their appointment to public offices. In the case of a monk desiring to practice medicine, he would be required to conform in every respect to the requirements of the General Medical Council, and his sanctity would dispense him from none of the obligations of his profession, nor would it stand to his account in lieu of training, or exempt him from being obliged to obtain ordinary diplomas. Why, then, should dispensations from professional duties, from the required period of training, and from examination and certification be asked for in the case of nuns? The demand is an arrogant and untenable one. The sooner we have a State examination, the certificate of which alone will give women the right to practise as nurses, the better, we must have one portal and one standard.

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