

and usefulness of the European nursing staff is the marvellous reduction in the death-rate from 166.66 per thousand to 82.72 per thousand, or rather more than 50 per cent. That this is in very great measure, if not entirely, due to the introduction of skilled European nurses is beyond question—the facts speak for themselves.”

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The invested fund has now almost reached the sum suggested by Mrs. Chamberlain—£5,000. At the same time, if the work of the Association is to continue to develop in accordance with the demands made upon it and the increased appreciation shown by the Colonies, it will be necessary for the annual subscription list to be very much enlarged.

The Committee desire most gratefully to acknowledge a donation of £500 from the Government of the Malay Federated States. The Acting High Commissioner, in offering this donation, says, “It is intended as a mark of appreciation of an institution formed to ameliorate the conditions of life in distant parts of the Empire.”

In conclusion, gratitude was expressed to all who have assisted in furthering the work of the Association in the past. But the Committee observe with regret that because the Association is careful to proportion the extent of its efforts to the means at its disposal, it is considered by some not to be in need of increased or even of continued support. They would point out that many of the poorer Colonies are still unprovided with nurses, while others cannot afford a staff sufficient to supply adequately the wants of the communities.

The chairman announced that Sir Alfred Jones had sent him a letter in which he intimated that he intended to raise his annual subscription from £50 to £150.

A vote of thanks was passed to Princess Henry of Battenberg for allowing the use of her house for the meeting, and a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

The Midwives' Bill.

There is a wicked story which attributes to Lord Salisbury the remark that the favourite image which crosses his mind when he thinks of the House of Lords is that of Lord Balfour of Burleigh talking about midwives. This is not surprising, considering the long and weary time it has taken to engineer this question, first into the sphere of practical politics and later through our Houses of Parliament. But at last Lord Salisbury can disabuse his mind of noble lords twaddling on this essentially woman's question. The Midwives' Bill has passed triumphantly through its third reading in the House of Lords, and, after one more visit to the “Commons,” will no doubt become law this Session.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



On Tuesday, the convalescence of the King had so far progressed that he was moved on his couch by special ambulance and train to Portsmouth, and so on to the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, which is moored in the Solent. His Majesty was accompanied by the Queen, his medical attendants, and four nurses.

Miss Edith Debenham was “At Home” at St. Andrews House Club on Thursday, the 10th, when the beautiful mansion was decorated from top to toe with flowers and thrown open for the inspection of the numerous guests who thronged its pretty rooms and corridors, and thoroughly enjoyed the bountiful spread of all the dainties of the season whilst listening to the band. The Club has now been open two years, but has lost none of its freshness; indeed, a lovely new yellow paper in the drawing-room makes it most cheery, and the rose-red walls of the restaurant are gay in the extreme. When first opened, St. Andrews House was announced to be an hotel for nurses, but as time went on it was found that, to fulfil its object of being a refined home for refined women, the hotel element must be dropped, so that now it is largely used by Club members, of whom there are upwards of 200, no one being admitted without references and due notice.

We observed that the dining hall has been extended, so that it is now possible for members to entertain their friends privately in the second room, and little lunches, teas, and dinners are quite the order of the day. Another change which we think highly advantageous is that the public lounge, through which many strangers pass, is not now used for smoking, a cosy little room having been arranged for this purpose, where those nurses who appreciate a cigarette may do so in comfort, and without hurting the susceptibilities of those who object to this habit in nurses. We know one medical man who was simply horrified to find young nurses smoking publicly at eleven in the morning. We may think such objections foolish and old-fashioned, but they exist, and the real lover of the weed has no cause of complaint in being asked not to violate prejudices in a public institution—she enjoys her nicotine the more without an audience. The reading-room at St. Andrews

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