

After discussion and the omission of a few details the report was adopted.

THE BENEVOLENT SCHEME.

The suggestions of the Provisional Committee of the Benevolent Fund Scheme were then considered, and after discussion were substantially adopted. From the appearance of the members present we should imagine that very few will need to come upon the Fund for assistance; but, nevertheless, the sisterly spirit which prompts the members to make provision for extending a helping hand to their colleagues trained in the same school is an admirable one.

The objects of the Fund as sanctioned are to provide:—

- (a) Gifts to relieve temporary distress.
- (b) Loans without interest.

On the proposition of Miss Mollett, seconded by Sister Matthew, the following Committee was appointed to deal with the Benevolent Fund:—

The President of the League, Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Matthews, Hon. Secretary, Sister Surgery, Mrs. Hayward, Miss Parry, Miss Campbell, Miss Mackay, Sister Mark, and Sister Martha.

The next business on the Agenda was to consider a letter from Miss Dock, Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, in regard to the official representation of Great Britain at the meeting of this Council in Berlin in 1904. The letter having been read, the President said the matter was a most important one, and could not be adequately considered in the few minutes at the disposal of the meeting.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the International Council of Nurses, pointed out that, as Hon. Vice-President for England, Miss Stewart was the right person to deal with the question, and, as the other Leagues had received similar letters to that now read from Miss Dock, she proposed that the matter should be left in Miss Stewart's hands, and that she be asked to issue invitations to members of all existing Leagues to attend a meeting to discuss the question at a later date.

This was seconded by Mrs. Dyall, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Spencer then proposed that before the amalgamated meeting the members of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses should meet to discuss the question amongst themselves. This was seconded by Miss Mollett, and agreed to. Sister Surgery's suggestion that a special business meeting should be summoned before the next social gathering, to consider the question, was accepted.

A letter from the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was also referred for consideration to the same meeting.

The new members of the Executive Committee replacing Miss Barling, Miss Finch, and Miss Hare, who retired in rotation, were Miss Campbell, Sister Martha, and Miss Styles.

"Miss Courtney's" Day.

The members then adjourned to the Great Hall, which, at all times imposing, looked its very best. On the crimson-covered platform was a table on which were the many gifts to be presented to Miss Courtney Smith, one of which, a silver bowl, was filled with choice crimson roses. About the Hall were dotted little tables, at which small groups of members and their guests subsequently took tea. On Miss Stewart's left, when she took the chair, was the guest of honour, Miss Courtney Smith, and there were also on the platform her brother, the Rev. G. Hyde Smith, Sister Lucas, representing the presentation committee, and Mr. W. H. Cross.

In a witty and amusing speech Miss Stewart said she rose with feelings of mingled pleasure and pain to fulfil the office before her—pleasure in presenting to Miss Courtney Smith the gifts which had been so willingly subscribed for, and pain in realising that the hospital would so shortly lose her bright and cheery presence. For twenty-one years—five with Mrs. Bedford Fenwick as Matron, and sixteen with herself—Miss Smith had worked as Assistant Matron, and during that time she had not only been a most popular officer, but had gained the respect of all whom it was her duty to supervise. During the whole of that time she had not made a single enemy, the reason being that she had administered even-handed justice all round. There were few who had not at some time or other come under her reproof, but it was always given in a kindly spirit, and was consequently never resented. Throughout Miss Smith's connection with the hospital the keynote of her work had been devotion to duty.

Miss Stewart then asked Miss Smith's acceptance of the beautiful gifts on the table before her, and handed to her a fine silver chain purse containing 100 guineas; a travelling clock bearing a suitable inscription; and an umbrella with a beautiful tortoiseshell handle, from the past and present members of the nursing staff (everyone, said Miss Stewart, who had been in the hospital during the past winter knew that Miss Smith had lost her umbrella, so they thought that the best thing they could do was to give her another); lastly, an album containing the names of the donors, bearing the hospital shield in silver and a plate on which was engraved the occasion of its presentation. Then there was a beautiful silver rose bowl from the administrative officials in the office and others, a silver-mounted brush and comb from the ward-maids, a clothes-brush and silver pin tray from the servants in the Home, a card-case from Mrs. Scott, and a silver match-box from Miss Reeve. (Everyone who knows Miss Courtney Smith knows Miss Reeve, who has been her able assistant in the linenry for so many years.)

Miss Stewart then presented these gifts to Miss

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