

by the Council, and are now circulated with a view of their adoption at the next general meeting. The Council would earnestly urge the claims of this fund upon the consideration of all members, medical as well as nursing. If the Association means anything, it means mutual assistance.

THE REGISTER.

Early in the present year a Supplementary Register was circulated, giving official information up to date. Almost simultaneously with this meeting the Register for the year will be published, and, it is hoped, found as complete and free from mistakes as possible. The number of nurses on the General Register is 607, on the Special Register, 187; registered under the obsolete Rule 21, 101; registered male attendants, 6. The number of medical members is 49; of general hospitals registered as training-schools, 37; of registered nurses' homes, 11; and registered private hospitals (*i.e.*, private hospitals employing only registered nurses and no probationers), 0. It contains also full information as regards training-schools, curricula, examinations, nurses' homes, fees, &c. Any member whose name, address, or qualifications are incorrectly stated is requested to notify any mistake or omission direct to the Secretary.

MEETINGS AND LECTURES.

Throughout the present year a meeting of members has been held on the last Wednesday of every month, and a course of twelve lectures arranged. Each lecture appears in *Una* in due course, thus reaching every member of the Association. In addition, a quarterly meeting was held, and it is proposed to hold another within the next three weeks. At these quarterly meetings it is intended to discuss additions to, or alterations in, by-laws, or other matters of more general interest which any member of the Association may desire to bring forward.

The report also dealt with the work done at the ordinary meetings of the Council, with the valuable assistance in the practical carrying out of the Examinations by the Conjoint Board of Examiners, to whom the thanks of the Council were rendered, as also to the committees of management of the different training-schools, "without whose sympathy and support the present satisfactory system could never have been established," to Miss Burleigh, Miss Glover, and Dr. Wood for their work in revising the Register, and to the President and Dr. Meyer for their invaluable efforts in the production of *Una*.

The President, in moving the adoption of the Report, said that the year had been one of steady, continuous progress. The secret of success, apart from enthusiasm and effort, lay in the representation of all interests in proportion to their importance, and this from the outset had been the aim of the Council.

After the discussion of the Report, in which the nurse-members showed themselves fully alive to their own interests, and possessed of ability to voice their views in relation to them, the adoption of the Report was carried.

THE BALANCE-SHEET.

The balance-sheet, presented by the Hon. Treasurer, proved that the Association is living well within its income, and that the Society is in a financially sound condition.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

The Council elected at the Annual Meeting included, in addition to the hon. officers, representation of the following interests:—

Superintendents of Nurse Training-Schools of General and Children's Hospitals (four).

Sisters and Nurses (two).

Ballarat Sub-Centre (two).

Beechworth Sub-Centre (two).

Bendigo Sub-Centre (two).

Midwifery and Gynæcological Training-School (one).

Medical Members (two).

A WELCOME GIFT.

A pleasant incident was the reading of a letter from Mrs. Higgins, on behalf of the late Melbourne Trained Nurses' Home, in which a cheque for £237 2s. 4d.—the surplus after the settlement of the affairs of the Home—was enclosed, with the request that it might be devoted to the Benevolent Fund of the Association. The welcome gift met with an enthusiastic and grateful reception.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

The following report of the Board of Examiners on the examinations held in June, 1903, was presented by Miss Glover, Hon. Secretary of the Association:—

All the examiners are agreed that the answers were not as good as those furnished in December, 1902. Perhaps the fact that all the candidates were successful on that occasion may have given rise to the idea that our examination was an easy one, and so perhaps some nurses were induced to present themselves without adequate preparation for the examination.

The representative of the Council who went to Ballarat suggests that it would be better if both the other examiners were not chosen from Ballarat. We presume the same thing would apply to Bendigo. Whilst the Board of Examiners approves of the suggestion, they would at the same time remind the Council that it is not everyone who is fit to conduct an examination, and that there might in consequence be great difficulty in getting a suitable examiner from another place in the district.

Miss Burleigh and Dr. Schlesinger examined the papers on medical nursing, whilst Miss Ayers and Dr. Moore examined those on surgical nursing. All bad and doubtful papers were referred to Dr. Bennie. No candidate was rejected except on the decision of at least two examiners.

In Melbourne, instead of having separate practical examinations in medical and surgical nursing, only one such examination was held. It was conducted by Miss Ayres, Miss Burleigh, and Dr. Bennie, and was made to embrace both medical and surgical nursing; it was distinctly a practical and not an ordinary *ex voce* examination, and it afforded a very fair test of a nurse's practical efficiency.

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