

Branch) was held last week at 29, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh—Lord Salvesen presiding. The report showed that on October 31st, 1905, the Council were responsible for the maintenance of forty-one nurses and probationers. During the year ending October 31st, 1905, twenty-seven nurses had, on completion of their training, been engaged from the Home by local committees. Since November 1st, 1904, thirty-one nurses has resigned. It was a gratification to the Council to note that the chief feature of the past year had been the expansion of the work in various directions. Nine new affiliated branches had been formed—at Alloa, Arisaig, Altyre Estate, Bearsden, Forgan, Fraserburgh, Holytown, Kilmaurs, and Prestwick. There are now 268 Queen's nurses in Scotland, working under 174 affiliated branches. Whilst contributions generally showed an increase for the year past of about £90, the Council regretted that the ordinary income was not yet equal to the expenditure.

The Chairman referred to the enormous amount of work done, and the comparatively small expense at which it had been accomplished. In four-fifths of the total cases attended there had either been a complete cure or a partial relief, and only one-tenth of the cases terminated fatally. The total expenditure was £3,600, and roughly that worked out at something like 6d. or 7d. a visit. The actual number of patients was about the same as the total number of the inhabitants of Edinburgh and Leith who were treated in the Royal Infirmary. There was an average of something like twenty-five cases per day to one nurse, and in supplying an additional nurse a lady had kindly provided the necessary funds. He often wondered that more nurses did not fall victims to the diseases they combated. He pointed out that the ordinary expenditure exceeded the ordinary income last year by over £400. This was not as it should be, and in moving the adoption of the report he appealed for a larger public support. The report was unanimously adopted.

The Countess of Wicklow opened the sale of work in the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Donnybrook, Dublin. There was a large gathering of friends and sympathisers of the institution present, and the exhibits by the inmates excited much attention. The articles in the various stalls numbered over 1,000. The entire proceeds of the sale are to be divided amongst the patients without any deduction to provide them with little comforts in their lingering illness, and, as is often the case, to mitigate

the lot of needy relatives at home. The patients now in the hospital number 200.

In *L'Ambulancier*, Mons. F. Bièvre has addressed an "open letter" to the Director-General of *L'Assistance Publique*, at Paris, in which he draws attention, at the psychological moment when, at the termination of the Tuberculosis Congress, all the world is interested in the question, to the physical and moral condition of hospital workers, for whose welfare he considers an immense amount requires to be done to protect them from tubercular infection.

He points out that everywhere, except in the hospitals, precautions are taken against tubercular infection. Those who suffer from this disease are not isolated, neither have those attending them any means of disinfection after breathing infected air for twelve hours in wards arranged to contain thirty-two beds, but in which forty-five are often crowded. When off duty the male and female nurses can only take their rest and recreation in insanitary and infected attic dormitories, with an insufficient allowance of cubic feet of air, or in the street, for there is a rule which forbids them to remain in the courts and gardens. The male nurse wanders from café to café. What, asks the writer, becomes of the female ones?

They have only the insanitary dormitories in which they cannot stand upright, which are neither heated or lighted, which are suffocating in summer and freezing in winter, and where they are devoured by vermin all the year round. The street, the dormitory, and the café—all leading slowly but fatally to the same goal—tuberculosis, which the nurse grimly calls "the professional disease." No wonder! Out of 5,000 employés of *L'Assistance Publique* some 3,000 are tuberculous. It is a significant fact that in 1896 a society was established to provide seemly coffins and funeral arrangements for the dead. In the case of those dying in the service of *L'Assistance Publique*, they died so fast it was necessary to stop payment, and they are accorded a parish funeral.

Mons. Bièvre pleads with the Director-General to establish rest rooms, libraries, and recreation rooms in hospitals, to which the employés can go when off duty and thus avoid the taverns. To do so would be to raise both the moral and physical standards of the workers. If these reforms are inaugurated, and the dormitories made healthy and sanitary, the present Director-General will, says Mons. Bièvre, have attained to the first rank amongst those who have

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