

The new building, like the hospital, was erected and equipped by Mr. Robert Mond, but the institution is dependent upon voluntary contributions for support.

After the meeting tea was hospitably dispensed by the Matron, Miss Grasset.

SCOTTISH MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The fifth Annual Meeting of the Scottish Matrons' Association was held on Saturday, March 20th, at three o'clock, in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill, Glasgow, with a very good attendance of members.

Miss Gill, R.R.C., President of the Association, occupied the chair.

After formal preliminary business, the President said:—

Our Meeting to-day takes place in very stirring and moving times. As a nation we are living through a great crisis, and as a profession we are asked to rise and meet great national emergencies. It is a time of extraordinary stress for every one, and the busy woman is asked to take her share with the idle.

I do not think that I am wrong in saying that the burden of supplying nurses for the War has fallen mainly on the civil hospitals and private Nursing Homes. The Matrons have not only had to work with depleted staffs; they have had to act as recruiting and supply agencies for the Army and Navy, and at the same time nearly every civil hospital, great or small, has added extra beds for the wounded. Many also have assisted in the training of Red Cross workers to meet future exigencies, while the superintendents of Nursing Homes have the greatest difficulty in meeting calls, and are suffering considerable financial loss. The tale of the past year is one of effort and high pressure—and what of the future?

We probably all realise the condition of affairs. Some fifty thousand extra beds are being asked for in the United Kingdom alone, while more nurses are wanted for our hospitals abroad. There is no question but that the supply of trained nurses is running short. Two months ago the hospitals and nursing institutions thought that they had reached the limit of self-sacrifice; it looks now as if the demands on them have only just begun. I want especially to emphasise two points which arise in connection with the present situation. The first is how best to meet the immediate demand for the care of more wounded; and secondly, what effect is the War likely to have on the future of the nursing profession? These are questions which concern us very intimately, and which we must all weigh and consider.

With regard to the first, I believe that we must be prepared to make use of voluntary assistance to the utmost possible extent, always supervising and superintending with a trained staff;

and we ourselves must be prepared likewise to a great extent to put up with "second bests" and temporary arrangements. There is no way out otherwise. The trained nurses in the military hospitals must be made to go as far round as possible.

We have some work also to do by way of educating our trained staff. They must be made to realise the emergency, and then to make the best of it; to work pleasantly with temporary help, and to put up with the break in the usual routine. We have to educate the young nurses also. Every nurse at this crisis should be prepared to help in the position for which she is considered most suitable. Like the workman, I believe that they only require to be told how critical things are, to give of their best.

Then with regard to my second point, what are we to expect after the War is over? Now this is a very serious question for the profession. Though we are prepared to utilise voluntary help, we ought at once to be taking steps to protect our nurses in training. Many volunteers will be engaged by the Military for one year, and though the Army is emphasising the fact that this is in no sense to be regarded as training, many will, after the War, seek work as professional nurses. They have already done some study and possess some certificates; after the War they will be in a position to state that they have been salaried and employed in military hospitals for a year; how is the public to distinguish between them and fully trained nurses? In my opinion the time is fully ripe for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and I am not inclined, owing to the stress of the times, to let the matter slide. It is a question of justice to nurses, and it is more highly desirable in the interests of the profession than ever before. May I ask if you will consider this very seriously and if, by any means, we can help forward the movement, let us endeavour to do so.

The Annual Report was submitted, and adopted by the meeting.

The Report by the Hon. Treasurer showed a good balance in hand.

The President, four Vice-Presidents, Hon. Secretary, and Hon. Treasurer were re-elected.

Miss Guy, Royal Victoria Hospital, resigned her position as Vice-President, and Miss Edmondson, Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, was elected to the vacancy.

Two members of Council retired in rotation, and two new members were elected. Two honorary members were elected. Four resignations were received, and five new members were elected.

It was suggested, and unanimously agreed to, that the Association should endow a bed for six months in the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia.

Miss Melrose, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, proposed the following Resolution, which was

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