

infirmary staff from the seventies onwards were present. Fifteen new members were elected. The position of the nursing profession after the War, and the appointment of the "War Probationers" were discussed, and the following resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously:—"We, the members of the Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League, pledge ourselves to do all in our power to uphold the standard of three years' training for nurses."

Tea was served in the garden to League members and other nurses and friends who had been invited to meet Miss Thurstan. After tea an audience numbering about 120 assembled in the Recreation Room to hear Miss Thurstan's account of her experiences while nursing as a prisoner under the Germans in Belgium and with a flying column in Russia. Everyone listened intently to her vivid and thrilling account of her adventures and hardships. Miss F. Ellis, in moving a vote of thanks to Miss Thurstan said she thought nurses in England after hearing all these devoted Sisters had gone through in Belgium and Russia would never want to grumble again!

At the request of some of the members Miss Thurstan promised to send the necessary literature to the Secretary, with the intention of starting a Branch of the National Union of Trained Nurses in Leicester.

THE IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Report of the Irish Nurses' Association, just issued in its distinctive green cover, shows that in spite of the main interest of everyone having been centred on the War for the latter part of the period which it covers, it has nevertheless been very active.

The Report states that, on the outbreak of war those nurses who were on the Military Nursing Reserve were called up for active service at once; others who were able-bodied volunteered, and while waiting for a call joined the ambulance lectures which were formed almost immediately. The Report expresses a hope that in the future all probationers will take their first aid training and obtain a recognised certificate as a matter of course during their general training.

A St. John's Ambulance Corps was formed, with Miss Carson Rae as Lady Superintendent. There are now 75 members. Some are working at the front under the War Office and the French Flag Nursing Corps, others at base and military hospitals.

The President of the I.N.A., Miss Huxley, and Miss Sutton, have seats on the Irish Branch of the Joint War Committee.

It is a matter of legitimate pride that at the Winter Conjoint London and Dublin Examinations in Massage (I.S.T.M.) the first place, with distinction, was taken by a Dublin candidate. Six members of the Massage Section are giving their services without remuneration at King George V Hospital, Dublin Castle.

COLONIAL NURSING ASSOCIATION.

Colonel the Right Hon. Sir Claude MacDonald, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., presided at a business meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association, held at the Imperial Institute on Thursday, June 10th, and which, on account of the war, took the place of the usual annual meeting.

There was a representative gathering, including Mrs. Chamberlain, Lady MacDonald, Lady Piggott, Lady Musgrave, Mrs. Weston Devenish, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Cookson, Mrs. D'Arcy Hutton, Mrs. du Maurier, Mr. Bruce, Dr. Atkinson, and others.

In moving the adoption of the annual report, Sir Claude MacDonald referred to the rapid strides which the work of the Association had made during the past year, in spite of the war, the number of nurses sent abroad since the publication of the last annual report exceeding any previous number. He drew particular attention to the valuable services rendered by the nurses of the Colonial Nursing Association in various colonies, in connection with the war, mentioning especially British East Africa, Nyasaland and Penang, where, particularly in the two former colonies, the fighting had been very severe.

Lady Piggott seconded the adoption of the report, and said that although we were all at present under a dark cloud, the dark cloud of war, so far as the Association was concerned it possessed the proverbial silver lining, for it had enabled its nurses to render most valuable services in connection with the wounded. By their efficient and skilful nursing, thousands of our men had been rapidly cured and sent back to the fighting line. The war had, indeed, at first seriously interfered with the work of the Association, as, not only had many C.N.A. nurses entered into war service in preference to taking up work in the colonies, but it had also made its presence felt by a slight falling off in the subscription list. In spite of these difficulties, however, the Association had carried on successfully, and the nurses have had their share of war work, which they have performed with commendable courage and skill, being ever ready and anxious for the work they were called upon to do, as an example of which the cases of Nurses Winchester and Bell were quoted, who were on the ill-fated *Falaba* when she was torpedoed on her voyage to the West Coast of Africa.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

Some most interesting reports have been received from the nurses, demonstrating not only the good work done by them, in the course of their ordinary duties, but in emergencies occasioned by the war. Thus a Nursing Sister employed in the Government Hospitals of Nyasaland writes:—

"Three of us are at present with the Field Force at K— about 18 miles from the German frontier. Two of us came up first, and proceeded to scrub and clean a house to be converted into a

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)