

## THE OVERSEAS NURSING ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Overseas Nursing Association is always one of considerable interest, and this year several things combined to enhance its interest—the presence of its Patroness H.R.H. the Princess Beatrice; the fact that it was held by kind invitation of the Duchess of Norfolk in the beautiful rooms of Norfolk House, St. James' Square, S.W., and that a trained nurse, Miss E. M. Pratt, a member of the Association, who has been working in the Uganda Government Hospital since 1914, and who has earned the Silver Bar and Riband presented to Matrons and Nurses on completing ten years and upwards meritorious service for the Association, was amongst the speakers.

### THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

The chair was taken by the President, the Right Hon. the Viscount Gladstone, G.C.B., who congratulated the Association on meeting under such happy auspices. The work had picked itself up during the past year, and 742 candidates had been interviewed against 117 in the previous year, and 213 had been found suitable, as against 34 of last year. The O.N.A. was in touch with every part of the Overseas Empire, and doing work of high value and importance.

Lord Gladstone expressed most cordial thanks to the ladies who on various Committees, especially the Nursing Committee, gave so much time to the service of the Association. He had only one complaint to make, they had not enough money, and they ought to have more. The consciousness of adequate means was a great support. For an Association of such importance to have a subscription list of under £150, was something of a scandal. Even now there were plenty of people who could spare a £5 note. The Council was magnificent on paper, but on going through the names he found 26 absent from the subscription list of people whom he knew could give £1 and upwards. He hoped a vigorous effort would be made to improve the financial position.

He regretted that their hopes of the extension of their work in regard to Canada had not been realised. Their proposals had not met with such support in Canada as they desired. The Dominions liked to take their own way and not opinions from outside; nevertheless he hoped opinion in Canada would mature, and that the ideas put forward by members of the Association would be realised.

Lord Gladstone mentioned with pleasure that eleven nurses had been sent out to South Africa as King Edward Nurses, quite recently, and to the appointment of Prince Arthur of Connaught, as Governor-General. Princess Arthur had given her heart to nursing work in which she had attained practical skill, and he looked forward with anticipation to the help Her Royal Highness would be able to give to the newly-formed movement for King Edward Nurses.

### EXCELLENT WORK OF THE O.N.A.

The adoption of the report, which was taken as read, was moved by Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, K.C.M.G., Governor of Ceylon, who said that during a long connection with the Colonies and Empire, he had seen the excellent work the O.N.A. and its nurses had done. In the early days in Central Africa, there was a good deal of serious sickness, few doctors, and no nurses. The officials were called up to assist in the nursing of their colleagues, but they were untrained, unskilled, and many young men who would have been of value to the Empire would have been alive to-day if trained nursing had been available.

The news that two trained nurses were to be sent out to Nyasaland created something of a panic. Where would they be housed; many of the officials lived in huts? The arrival of the nurses had a marvellous effect in improving the accommodation. They took the work in hand and insisted on a hospital being provided, and officials, planters and others were housed in clean buildings under comfortable conditions. But the nurses also travelled long distances; they might be called up at midnight and go off to a case in a hammock carried by negroes. Their work was wonderful. But they suffered serious losses. Not from the climate, or the conditions of work, but the Government of the Protectorate was in danger of becoming a matrimonial agency. It was embarrassing, and he called the attention of the O.N.A. to this. But the nurses were excellent, and when they married, they carried their knowledge into the out-districts.

### HIGHEST PRAISE THE DUE OF THE NURSES.

He could speak from personal knowledge of the work of the O.N.A. nurses in Central Africa, East Africa, the West Indies, and elsewhere. They were a credit to the institutions which had raised them, and to their profession. Amongst them were women who had done as much as any Colonial Minister high or low. Their names were unknown, their works and deeds unsung, but they were able by their skill, courage, and devotion to duty, to save men who, but for them would have passed away. He would not be there to-day but for the skill and care given to him. The nurses of the O.N.A. were a wonderful, devoted, skilled body of women, and the highest praise which could be given them was none too great.

### A PIONEER MEMBER TELLS A MOVING TALE.

Miss E. M. Pratt, who seconded the adoption of the Report, and has been a member of the Association for 20 years, during which she worked in Costa Rica, Sierra Leone, Bangkok, Cyprus, and now Uganda, said that the work in each was very different. In Sierra Leone she worked with a black doctor, and for staff had orderlies and black nurses. When asked by a high official who visited the hospital, whether there was anything she wanted, she replied that the hospita

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