

deserves the success which we are glad to observe it has attained. But as its whole object and *raison d'être* is, to quote its prospectus, to secure to Nurses full remuneration for their work—in other words, to divide the earnings of its members amongst themselves—it is somewhat difficult to understand how it complies with the conditions specified in the Act which we have quoted. We believe, however, that it would be possible to incorporate the members of its Committee in this manner, because they receive no share in the profits of the Association; but in that case the Nurses would, we presume, merely be employed by the Co-operation, and would not be members of the Society in the ordinary sense of the word. What chiefly interests us in this matter, and, what we believe, will chiefly interest the Nurses connected with the Co-operation, are the powers which are sought for under the incorporation. One section (G), for example, empowers the Co-operation or its managing body to pay such part of its funds as may be deemed advisable to the National Pension Fund for Nurses, to amalgamate the Co-operation with any other Institution, or to transfer all or any part of its property to any other Society or Association. In other words, the Co-operation may be amalgamated with, and its property transferred to, the National Pension Fund, if such a course be deemed advisable. The section which empowers the Co-operation to “solicit, collect, accept, and hold gifts, subscriptions, and bequests,” appears to us to be altogether alien to the purpose of the Co-operation as a union of Nurses desirous to be independent. To introduce the charitable element into their work, to hold them publicly up as soliciting gifts for themselves, is a principle from which we feel bound, in the best interests of the Nurses themselves, to dissent as strongly as we can. It appears to us that it strikes at the whole root of the benefits and of the usefulness of the Co-operation thus to make its members objects of public charity. To our mind, they are worthy of esteem as independent, self-respecting, working women, and we cannot believe that the great body of them have understood that this proposal has been made, or when they do understand it, that they will give it their approval.

We cannot but think that the members of the Co-operation would do wisely to hold a meeting amongst themselves, and to protest against the insertion of this clause in their Memorandum of Association, because we feel that it cannot be consonant with their wishes that such a clause should have been introduced. Its retention would certainly be most detrimental to the professional standing of the Co-operation. Trained Nurses are entitled to secure for themselves the fruits of their work; but they are not justified in asking for legal authority to become professional beggars.

INFIRMARY NURSING.

In another column, there appears the report of the official inquiry respecting the poisoning case at the St. Marylebone Infirmary. We are glad to observe and to record the fact that the Committee of Inquiry, after a full and impartial investigation—a course which we venture to think might be imitated with much advantage by the governing bodies of certain voluntary Hospitals—came to the conclusion that a grave mistake had been made, that somebody was responsible for it, and that means must be taken to prevent such an error in future. Furthermore, it is satisfactory that the entire blame was not laid upon the Nurse, as has been too frequently the case on previous similar occurrences. The facts of the case emphasize once more the grave necessity which exists for radical changes and improvements in many large Poor Law Infirmaries, and the considerable need for alteration in the training of the Nurses at such Institutions. It would be well for the reputation of every Infirmary, and for the efficiency of its Nursing Staff, that, for example, the standard and methods of training in vogue at the Chelsea and Kensington Workhouse Infirmaries should be adopted. Our remarks apply with impersonal force to all Infirmaries which, in the training of their Nurses, maintain systems which were considered sufficient thirty years ago, but which are quite obsolete at the present day. It is the general opinion now that at least three years are required for the efficient training of a Nurse, and this view was accepted and endorsed by the Select Committee of the House of Lords, which inquired into the methods of training Nurses pursued at the chief Hospitals in the Metropolis. And with the many advantages at their disposal there can be no valid reason why Infirmaries should not possess Training Schools organized on the best and most modern principles.

THE LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL.

We desire to draw the attention of our readers to the claims which this Institution possesses upon all classes of the community in London, because it is one which is, in many respects, unique, both in the scope and the usefulness of its work. It helps to check the spread of infectious fever by affording isolation and treatment, on payment of a small fee, to sufferers who do not seek admission to, or for whom room cannot be found in, the rate-supported Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board; and, by so doing, it is indisputable that it confers benefits not only upon people who are thoroughly deserving of such assistance, but, indirectly, upon the whole community. The fees, however, that are charged, only cover about one-fourth of the patients' cost, the balance having to be provided from the general funds of the Institution; and, when it is mentioned that nearly 900 of such patients were received in the Hospital last year, it is manifest what a great work the Institution is doing in the prevention and cure of dangerous disease. We do not deem it part of our mission to plead for support to Hospitals generally, believing that their claims are sufficiently before the public; but we have no hesitation in asking our readers, many of whom, we believe, have been personally benefitted by the London Fever Hospital, to do all in their power to assist in its good work themselves, or to bring its claims to public support before those of their friends and patients who may be able and desirous to help so great and useful a charity.

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