

those women who have received a thorough technical training, and those who are Nurses only in name; but also that the fact of such a professional standard having been enforced, has naturally tended to raise the efficiency of Nurses' education generally, so that the sick will, in future, obtain better trained Nurses than before. On the ground of its registration work alone, therefore, the Association has great claims upon the public; and it can fairly ask that the necessary funds should be provided by those who will be benefited by the reform of abuses, still existent, which it is engaged in carrying out.

ITS BENEVOLENT WORK.

There is, however, another side to the work of the Association which will appeal more keenly to many people. As we have already said, Nurses, as a class, are very poorly paid. They are not, as a rule, admitted for training until they are 23 years old, and their arduous work generally breaks down their health and strength earlier than those of other women fail. So that, at the best, their professional life is a short one, and their ability to earn sufficient to make provision for old age is correspondingly diminished. One object of the Association, therefore, is to provide Pensions for those who, after long and unselfish service, are unable to continue to work, and two Princess Helena Pensions of £20 a year each are already in existence. From the Benevolent Fund, pecuniary assistance is given to those members who are temporarily disabled from work in consequence of illness contracted in the discharge of their duties, or from other circumstances beyond their control; while closely connected with the Association, although not directly associated with it, there is a Convalescent Home for Nurses, at Brighton, to which members can go for small weekly payments. On the ground of helping those who have spent themselves in the service of the sick, this department of the Association's work can fairly claim to receive charitable assistance.

ITS EDUCATIONAL WORK.

There is, at present, the greatest diversity in the systems of education of Nurses carried out in the various Hospitals of the Kingdom; and, in no inconsiderable number of these, no theoretical teaching is given in order to prepare the Nurse to understand and carry out upon rational principles the duties which she is expected to perform. The Association has, therefore, organised, and is now engaged in giving, series of Lectures on Elementary Anatomy, Physiology, Hygiene, Ward and Domestic Management, and Practical Nursing. Its efforts in this direction have met with much success, and it is probable that this department will, in time, develop into one of the most important branches of the work of the Association.

Finally there comes what may fairly be termed,
ITS NATIONAL WORK.

in that it is able from among its members to obtain a reserve of workers, in times of emergency, for national service. During the years when cholera was invading other countries, and constantly threatening our own shores, a roll of Trained Nurses was formed by the Association, in order that, if occasion arose, skilled workers should be easily available. The experiences of previous epidemics in this country, and of recent outbreaks abroad, have proved beyond dispute that many lives were lost in the initial stage of cholera, owing to lack of proper Nursing, and that, in the hurry and confusion incident upon a sudden outbreak of disease, it was difficult, if not impossible, to obtain such assistance. The Association so organised this department that, if cholera had broken out, it was prepared to send to any part of the country, at an hour's notice, as many Trained Nurses as might be required. Most fortunately, this assistance was not necessary, but it is not too much to say that, if it had been required, the fact of such an organisation being all prepared would certainly have meant an immense saving of life and money. In like manner, the Association is now organising a reserve of Nurses, who would be able, on an outbreak of War, to yield assistance which would be imperatively necessary for the welfare of our soldiers, and without which there can be no doubt, as was the case during the Crimean War, there would be a great loss of life, as well as much unnecessary suffering.

Space fails us to enlarge upon the other schemes which the Association is carrying on for the benefit of Nurses, and indirectly of the public. For those departments which we have described, we think it will be generally admitted that the Association has an abundant claim to receive public support and benevolence. Any further particulars which our readers may desire concerning the work of the Association can be obtained from the Secretary of the Corporation, at 17, Old Cavendish Street, London, W. For the sake of Nurses, for the sake of the public itself, we earnestly hope that the efforts which the Association is now making to obtain funds will be eminently successful.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

We are glad to hear of the steady progress and success which is being achieved by this influential body. It affords the opportunity, which has hitherto been so often desired, for Hospital Matrons to meet together in order to discuss the many subjects of importance which concern their work, and especially matters in regard to the education of Nurses, and thus to determine some general lines of procedure in the management of the Nursing Departments of Hospitals. The interest excited by the paper read by Mrs. Strong, of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, at the first Conference of the Council, and by the subsequent discussion, has been very great and widespread.

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