

in arrears in the payment of their annual subscriptions, while, on the other hand, the roll has been increased by the addition of 235 names.

The withdrawals from the Register have been seven in number, and the additions 282, all of whom fulfil the condition of membership of the Corporation.

The efforts of the Association during the coming year, will, in all probability, be confined to the consolidation of its position, and to the extension of the work and projects already initiated, and especially to the establishment of local centres, to the task of revising and recasting the Bye-laws, in accordance with the advice of Sir Richard Webster, with a view to their being laid before the Lords of the Privy Council for approval, and to the extension of the Association in the sister kingdom of Scotland under the able direction of the distinguished members of the Scottish National Committee, and of their Hon. Sec., Dr. Robert Fraser, Calder, Leith, who, by the zeal and ability which he has brought to bear on the work which he has undertaken, has earned the gratitude of the Corporation."

On the motion of the Chairman the Report was adopted.

Dr. Calvert, in presenting the Financial Report, announced that for the time being the finances of the Association were in a sound position, owing to the annual subscriptions, which have been promised for three years, and to the proceeds of the Bazaar. But he pointed out that the best and the legitimate way of adding to the income of the Corporation was by an increased membership.

On the Treasurer's suggestion a resolution was proposed and carried that in future the Financial Report of the year should be printed in the May number of the Journal, so as to bring before the members the details of the financial position of the Association.

Sir Spencer Wells, in proposing a vote of thanks to H.R.H. Princess Christian for her continued interest in the affairs of the Association, said he felt sure all the members present were agreed that a debt of gratitude was owing to Her Royal Highness for all the work and care she had bestowed on the details of the Association.

Dr. Buzzard seconded the resolution, which was carried by acclamation.

The usual votes of thanks to officers and Chairman brought the proceedings to a close, when an adjournment took place to St. James' Hall, where luncheon was served.

At 4 p.m. the members of the Association again assembled at the Queen's Hall, where H.R.H. Princess Christian held a reception, and at which a large number of the members of the British Nurses' Association were presented to her personally. A selection of vocal and instrumental music was performed under the direction of Sir Walter Parratt, and tea and coffee and other refreshments were served in an adjoining room.

It will be remembered by many members of the Association that at the meeting of the General Council in April and July of last year, certain schemes which we had suggested were sanctioned, and the Executive Committee were directed to carry these into effect. These schemes aroused a good deal of attention amongst the members at the time, as it was thought the Association was about to carry out some practically useful plans for the benefit of the members. In brief, these schemes were as follows:—

(1) The Club and Reading Room. We suggested that some Nurse member might specially co-operate with the Hon. Officers, to interest herself in this scheme and procure books, magazines, papers, flowers, &c., for the use of visitors.

(2) A permanent exhibition of all Nursing and kindred appliances, for the information of members.

(3) A well-organised Lending and Reference Library.

(4) A Nursing Congress in the summer of 1895 which would also prove of educational value to the community.

(5) A reserve of Nursing sisters for the Army.

(6) A complete course of Elementary Lectures to prepare candidates for the preliminary examinations which are being instituted by the Nursing schools.

We regret to observe that although sanctioned by the General Council twelve months ago—no steps have yet been taken to organise practically any of these schemes for the benefit of the members (we are promised that the Library will be started in the autumn), with the exception of the course of elementary lectures—and we learn that under the present management this course of lectures has not been a financial success, and that at the late Council meeting held on the 12th inst., it was proposed, and it was seconded by Dr. Schofield, Lecturer to the National Health Society, that they should be discontinued. Last week we had occasion to remark that:—"The Royal British Nurses' Association, incorporated by Royal Charter, has the right and the powers, if it chooses to exert them, to carry out all the necessary organisation for Nursing reform, and to obtain for Nurses that legal status which is their right. If the Association fails in this duty, there can be no doubt that some other body will step forward, take its place, carry out its programme, and obtain the consequent power and prestige."

This week we have received rapid confirmation of the truth of our words. We have received from the Secretary of the National Health Society the following notice:—

"At a recent Committee Meeting this Society took an important step with a view to enabling ladies who are intending to enter Hospitals as Nurses, to go through the Society's Special Training courses in Nursing, Hygiene, Sanitation, &c. It has been found that a great many ladies do not know what to do while waiting to attain the age of twenty-five, before which they cannot commence General Hospital Training. By removing the age qualification from the syllabus of the National Health Society's Training Course, the course has been thrown open to ladies during this waiting period in thus enabling them to go through this admirable preliminary training first, giving them thereby a very great start over others when once they begin Hospital life. In addition to this the lecturers' age has been lowered from 25 to 23 years, and this enables ladies not only to qualify but to occupy two years of the waiting time by earning money as lecturers."

We cannot congratulate the Authorities of either Society on their attitude concerning this matter: We are of opinion that the Royal British Nurses' Association has failed in its duty to its members in abandoning the principle that the preliminary teaching of professional women should be conducted under professional control, especially as Clause 4 of the Purposes and Powers of the Corporation, under the Royal Charter, grants them special powers to deal with this.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)