

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

ANNUAL MEETING.



THE Annual Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association was held in the Great Hall, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on July 22nd, 1896, at 12 o'clock, Sir James Crichton-Browne in the chair.

In consequence of the accident to which we referred last week, we are doubtful whether the transcriber of the shorthand writer's notes has given us an absolutely verbatim Report. We believe it, however, to be substantially accurate.

The Chairman: It is the summons of marriage bells that has prevented Her Royal Highness, the President, from being here to-day, and she bids me tell you that when this Meeting was appointed she fully intended, and hoped to be with you, but the date of the Royal Marriage of Prince Charles of Denmark and Princess Maud was subsequently fixed, and it is, of course, a matter of primary obligation to her to be present at that ceremony, on which the whole nation looks with sympathy and satisfaction; and in her absence, which she greatly regrets, she bids me take the chair. She hopes that your deliberations will promote the harmony and tend to the well-being of the Royal British Nurses' Association and of Nurses generally.

Mrs. Dacre Craven, Nurse Hon. Secretary, then read the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting.

Dr. Fenwick: I am sorry to say that there is a statement in those Minutes which is not correct. The statement that the Resolution referring to the election of the General Council was carried is inaccurate.

The Chairman: Will Dr. Fenwick suggest the words in the Report that he wishes deleted and what he proposes to substitute?

Dr. Fenwick: The word "carried" should be deleted, inasmuch as it is incorrect. The motion by Dr. Thorne that the General Council should elect members to fill its vacant seats was not carried as stated in those Minutes. I objected to that as illegal, and it was decided that the question of the General Council filling up vacancies among its own body should be referred to the Standing Council of the Association; and he stated that my reading of the Bye-law was correct.

The Chairman: I thank Dr. Fenwick for his correction. It does not alter the effect of the Resolution. You object to the word "carried"?

Dr. Fenwick: Yes, certainly. It is absolutely incorrect to say the Resolution was carried in the form given in the minutes.

The Chairman then put it to the meeting that the word "carried" should be deleted from the minutes, and this alteration was agreed to. The meeting having also agreed to the minutes, as altered, being officially signed, the Chairman confirmed them.

The Chairman: Our next business on the Agenda paper is to receive the financial statement.

Mr. Langton: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, if there is one person in this room deserving of pity to-day it is myself, for this is the fourth financial

statement that I have made to different committees within as many weeks. In order, therefore, to relieve myself of some trouble of recapitulation I have had printed a statement of accounts of the Journal, Registration, and General Account. I must go over it, not, perhaps, in detail, but over some of the more prominent features of it, and you will see on the balance side that we began our year with £317 10s. 7d. This is the outcome of that accession of money as a result of the bazaar in the Grafton Galleries. You will see that the annual subscriptions amount to £150 13s. 6d. To those who do not know what these three years' subscriptions mean I would say that certain members of the Council have guaranteed for three years certain annual subscriptions, and then we have the other subscriptions to the total of £271. Then we have had small special subscriptions to the Benevolent grant, and one can only wish that the total amount had been greater. For those poor Nurses who find themselves past work we have been able to do little or nothing. Then there are the proceeds of the Educational and Sessional Lectures, amounting to £9 7s.; the receipts from the Conversazione, £126, the largest amount, in this connection, ever received. Then the sale of the badges amounts to £34 19s. 6d., making the total £1,218 15s. 2d. On the other side—I am speaking of the General Account—we have printing and stationery, £62 7s. 8d.; salaries (share of), £116 13s. 5d.; office expenses, including rent, rates and so forth, £237 11s. 7d. The expenses of the July meeting were £19 18s., and the expenses of the Conversazione £112 13s. 8d., showing, therefore, a profit of over £13. Pensions and Benevolent grants came to £54 14s. 6d., furniture, £18 16s.; and expenses of the Educational and Sessional Lectures, £29 1s. 6d.; so it will seem that there is a deficit on that account of nearly £20. That does not, strictly speaking, represent the state of the matter, as we had to charge some of last year's expenditure, and so the loss is really only a few pounds.

The general legal expenses amounted to £43 7s. 11d., which is due to our solicitor, Mr. Randolph. Then the expenses in Barlow v. Thorne and others, which Mr. Justice Sterling determined should be paid by this Association, amounted to £102 5s. 5d., after having been duly taxed; and there are other expenses owing to our solicitors. Repairs amounted to £39 12s. 8d., and the transfer to the Journal Account was £104 15s. 3d., and the transfer to the Registration Account was, speaking generally, £180. Then there is the small amount in hand and in the Bank, of £96 17s. 7d., bringing up the total to that on the opposite side, viz., £1,218 15s. 2d. These are the expenses on the General Account. Then we come to the Journal Account, and we find that the amount received for the advertisements and sale of the Journals during that year is £56 1s. 11d., whereas the printing and postage of the Journal amounted to £160 17s. 2d., leaving a deficit of £104 15s. 3d., and that is the amount you will find transferred to the debtor account, on the right hand side. You will see, therefore, that the Journal has not paid, chiefly on account of the advertisements not being what we should have desired, and that is why the work has been transferred to another agent in the hope that the change will result in an improvement in regard to this matter.

With regard to the Registration Account you will see that the balance brought forward on March 31st of last year was £4 16s. 1d., and the Registration fees

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