

acter have been held at Newcastle-on-Tyne and Brighton, with a view to the establishment of local centres in these places, and it is hoped that steps will shortly be taken to further the development of this scheme.

The question of the revision of the Bye-laws is under consideration, and it is proposed to deal with the subject immediately after the vacation.

It is gratifying to record the advance made by the Association in our Australian and New Zealand colonies during the past year, a result which is in great measure due to the energy of Miss Farquharson, matron of the Melbourne Hospital, and local hon. secretary of the Association for Victoria, and Mrs. Neill, assistant Inspector of Hospitals and Asylums, who acts in the same capacity for New Zealand, and who has recently been empowered to form a branch of the Association in that colony.

The branch in Scotland, which is indebted to Dr. F. Calder Leith for its organisation, is now established, and it is hoped will materially advance the interests of the Association in that country.

The Journal of the Association continues to be ably edited by Miss de Pledge, whose services in this connection are gratefully recognised.

The formation of a reserve of Nurses who would volunteer to place themselves at the disposal of the military authorities in case of war is a subject in which Her Royal Highness the President has taken a great and leading interest. The authorities have now intimated to Her Royal Highness that they will gladly accept Her Royal Highness's assistance in the establishment of such a body, that it cannot be identified specially with the Royal British or any other Nursing Association, but will be open to any Nurse who possesses the qualifications required of all army Nurses.

The Lending and Reference Library, which was opened in October, has proved a most unqualified success, as is evidenced by the number of Nurses who avail themselves of its privileges. At present it contains some six hundred volumes, and the thanks of the Corporation are due to the various publishing firms, members and friends who have so generously contributed to its shelves. Further gifts will be gladly welcomed.

In addition to the usual Sessional Lectures a second valuable course on the Nursing of Nervous Diseases, has been delivered by Dr. Colman.

It is proposed in the forthcoming Session to institute a course of Practical Demonstration on Invalid Cookery, should a sufficiently large number of Nurses intimate their intention of attending.

It is a source of regret that the continued illness of the secretary, Miss Ravenhill, has occasioned her protracted absence. There is, however, reason to hope, that her health will be soon restored, and that she will be able to resume her duties at no distant date.

Mr. Gant: Ladies and Gentlemen, tastes differ widely, but, to my mind, this is the most interesting part of to-day's proceedings, and most gratifying. The Report needs no comment on my part to commend it to the acceptance of this meeting. It is perfectly simple, straightforward, and complete. It is a record of good work done during the year, under the auspices of our Royal President, herself foremost in the doing of all good works. This Nurses' Association is bound to have a good effect on that higher development of women, which is so distinguishing a

feature of the reign of Her Majesty the Queen. I could say much that would be foreign to this Report because, to some extent, our minds are elsewhere, but I will content myself with saying that I have very great pleasure in seconding the adoption of this Report.

Mr. George Brown: Is there no alternative than having this Report adopted by this meeting? It might place us in a false position. It is evident that it is irregular in this respect, that it does not comply with the provision of the Charter.

The Chairman: That I cannot admit.

A Member: It might be received by the Meeting, and simply published in the Journal. We must admit that it was unfortunate that it was not approved by the Executive Committee and then presented attached to the accounts.

Dr. Fenwick: This Report has emanated, we are told, from the Medical Hon. Secretary. As soon as this Association was incorporated by Royal Charter, it became bound to carry out the provisions of the Charter, or it will act illegally. It is often complained that the officials do not comply with the Charter and Bye-laws, and this is an instance in point. We ask where the Report is that the Executive Committee are directed by the Charter to produce. It is not in existence, and instead we have another Report, which does emanate from some one, but not from the Committee.

The Chairman: Are you speaking to an amendment?

Dr. Fenwick: Yes, certainly. At present, I propose that a protest be made by this meeting against the infringement of the clause of the Charter, which provides that the Executive Committee shall present an Annual Report.

The Chairman: I will not receive such an amendment, because I have already ruled on that. I will accept any amendment intended to refer the Report back.

Dr. Fenwick: Then I will move as an amendment that this meeting declines to receive the Report of the Medical Hon. Secretary. There are many points in it to which objection might be taken, but I will only take one which proves an important point. We are told that the Secretary of the Association has been ill, and has been absent from her duties for some months; I have been compelled to complain that the Executive Committee are not permitted to know the terms under which the Secretary of the Corporation is paying a substitute. I hold that, by the Charter, the Executive Committee is responsible for, and ought to be acquainted with, all the affairs of the Association. When I asked for information as to the salary received by this substitute clerk in our offices, I was refused the information. We were told that the Secretary was being paid £100 a year, and was away from her duties, and while she was away the Committee had allowed her to pay a substitute; but the members of the Committee were not permitted to know what payment an official in their service is receiving from another official. That is a very irregular proceeding, and is most important, because it conclusively proves that the Executive Committee does not know what is going on in the offices of the Corporation. Then, as we have just seen, the Executive Committee is prevented from presenting the Annual Report, which it is its duty to present, and the Medical Secretary takes upon himself the duty of presenting one. I object strongly to the Charter and Bye-laws of the Corpora-

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