

Colonial Nursing Association.

A DRAWING-room meeting, in aid of the newly-constituted Colonial Nursing Association was held last week at the residence of Mr. Quilter, M.P., when the objects of the Association were explained and discussed. The initiation of the Society has been due to the praiseworthy enterprise of Mrs. J. T. Pigott, now acting as Secretary, who has enlisted the warm sympathy of those most able to understand the requirements and needs most felt in colonial countries. Lord Loch, late Governor of the Cape, presided, and amongst those present were Lord Stanmore, Sir W. Maxwell (Governor of the Gold Coast), Sir J. Goldney (Trinidad), Mrs. J. Chamberlain, Dr. Gage Brown (medical adviser to the Colonial Office), Mrs. Charles Robinson, General Robinson, Mrs. Colin McLean, Mrs. Cuthbert Quilter, and Mrs. Pigott (Secretary). The Association has been formed with a view to supplying the great need for skilled private Nursing experienced in some of the colonies and British communities in foreign parts. This need has been strongly represented by medical officers abroad, who in many places attribute the high percentage of deaths to the impossibility of obtaining trained Nurses. The home Association is not intended to supersede the efforts of the colonies and communities themselves to provide for all expenses incidental to the supply of Nurses, but to supplement them in cases of real need. Any colony or community abroad applying to the Association for a trained private Nurse would be expected to organise at once a representative local committee who would endeavour to raise such a fund as might, together with the Nurse's fees, provide for her maintenance during her term of engagement, and for her travelling expenses out from England and home. By the word "maintenance" is meant suitable board and lodging, and a yearly salary of £60. No Nurse will be engaged for less than two or more than three years.

Lord Loch, President of the Association, paid a tribute to the efforts of Mrs. Pigott, who has lived in Mauritius and ascertained how great is the need there for skilled and trained Nurses. The experiment of sending out a trained Nurse had already been tried in Mauritius with great success; and he (Lord Loch), was pleased to be able to announce that the aims and objects of the Association had received the hearty sympathy of the Colonial Secretary, who had caused the following circular letter to be sent to the various colonial governors:—

"Downing Street, June 27, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit to you the prospectus of the Colonial Nursing Association for providing trained private Nurses in Crown colonies. It appears to me that the scheme of the Association is a good and practicable one for providing skilled Nurses for persons who can afford to pay for their services in Crown colonies where there is no sufficient supply of trained Nurses available for private Nursing, and I would recommend that, although the scheme is entirely independent of the Government, you should do all in your power to encourage it, if the want which it is intended to supply exists in the colony under your government.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,
J. CHAMBERLAIN."

Subsequently, Lord Loch referred in terms of high praise to the work of the Roman Catholic and Protestant Nurses now in Matabeleland. At Salisbury and Buluwayo they had endured great hardships, but their efforts had saved many lives, for which the thanks of Englishmen all over the world were due to them. He was glad to be able to bear witness to the important services of these devoted ladies.

Dr. Gage Brown spoke in commendation of the Association, which he regarded as a great philanthropic movement that was much needed.

As Governor of the Gold Coast, which bears the reputation of being the most unhealthy of British possessions, Sir W. Maxwell said he naturally regarded with great interest a movement which would place within the reach of himself and his officers in the colony the advantages of trained Nursing.

Lord Stanmore said the movement had his full sympathy and support. He had seen, in the course of a long tropical service, many cases in which valuable lives had been lost through lack of the necessary skilled attention.

After a few words from Mrs. Pigott, who announced that between £300 and £400 had been received in subscriptions, the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to Lord Loch.

The Colonial Nursing Association, of which the above gives a brief account, is a movement that will interest very many Nurses, and seems to promise an opening to those amongst them who are anxious to seek work and adventures abroad. We hope to be able to give further details and particulars of the working of this Association in an early issue.

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



THE Annual Meeting of the Association was held in the great Hall of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on Wednesday, the 22nd inst., at 12 o'clock. The Chair was taken by Sir James Crichton Browne, and there was a large attendance of members, the Nurses from the Middlesex Hospital, and the Chelsea Workhouse Infirmary being especially noticeable in large numbers.

A verbatim account of the proceedings will be published in these columns next week. Serious objection was taken to the fact that the Annual Report, which the Charter provides shall be drawn up by the Executive Committee, had never been seen by that body, but emanated from Mr. Fardon, the Medical Hon. Secretary, alone. The Chairman ruled that the provision of the Charter in this important matter was not obligatory. He was called to order by several members, and one medical man threatened to move a vote of censure upon him for his unseemly personal remarks and partizanship. Finally, Mr. Fardon having stated that Miss Breay's important resolution had not been sent in a registered envelope, as provided by the bye-law—and, although Miss Breay at once produced the Post Office Certificate of the Registration of her letter—Sir James Crichton Browne actually declined to allow the vote of censure on the Executive Committee to be proposed. The only possible comment is obvious.

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