

Registered Nurses at Home.



THE Third Annual Meeting of the Registered Nurses' Society took place at Mitcham Hall, Surrey, on Thursday, September 30th, 1897, at 3.30 p.m., by the kind invitation of Miss Millington. Miss Millington and Miss Hurlston also issued invitations for a garden party, which followed upon the meeting, and very

many friends and well-wishers of the Society responded to the hospitable invitation. Conspicuous amongst the visitors were Captain Cullum Birch, who was wounded in the Græco-Turkish War, and was nursed in the hospital at the Piræus; Mr. Fox Symons, one of the medical officers of the *Daily Chronicle* Fund in the same campaign, and several of the Red Cross nurses.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Chairman of the Committee, took the Chair. The notice convening the meeting was read. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Annual Report, and the audited accounts for the past year were read as follows:—

The Committee, in presenting their third annual report, have much pleasure in congratulating the Society upon its continued progress and success.

The Committee have continued to act on the principles adopted at the foundation of the Society only accepting for membership the best-trained nurses, and only sufficient numbers to meet, as nearly as possible, the demand for their services.

The consequences of this policy have been that, although it has occasionally happened that the Society has been compelled to decline cases, the members have been almost constantly employed, and their earnings, therefore, have been considerably greater than those of nurses elsewhere, while the most emphatic satisfaction has been expressed by all for whom they have worked.

During the year the Society has been enabled to do work of international importance. On the outbreak of Plague in India, it was able at once to send out nurses to Bómbay, and, during the recent Græco-Turkish war, the despatch of nurses employed by the Cretan Nursing Fund, by the Crown Princess of Greece's Fund, and by the National Fund for the Greek wounded, so ably raised and managed by the *Daily Chronicle*, was organized through our offices with facility and expedition—facts which the Registered Nurses' Society must regard with the greatest satisfaction. The earnings of the nurses who have worked continuously through the past year have varied from £131 14s. 6d. to £85 10s., the average being no less than £105 12s. for an

average of forty-three weeks' work. There is good reason to believe that no other nursing institution can show a higher average of earnings.

During the year, while the large number of doctors who previously supported the Society, have continued to give it their valuable patronage, no less than seventy-three new practitioners have commenced to send to our offices for nurses, a fact of the highest significance, importance, and encouragement, as proving the increasing reputation of the Registered Nurses' Society amongst those best able to judge of the manner in which it performs its work.

The Committee then can fairly congratulate the Society upon its success and upon the firm foundation in public and professional estimation which it has now secured. They would recall the fact that the Society was established for the benefit of the public, by supplying the best class of thoroughly trained and thoroughly trustworthy nurses, and for the benefit of the nurses by securing for them their full earnings less the small working expenses of the Society. In view of the preliminary expenditure being defrayed by the Committee, and by none of the financial responsibility of the experiment being undertaken by the nurses, the latter have not hitherto possessed any share in the management of the Society.

But now that the experiment has become a practical success, and that the Society is firmly established on a secure financial basis, the Committee consider that the time has arrived for the nurses to be given a share in the control of the Society. They therefore propose that each year six nurses should be elected to serve on the Committee and that they should be chosen and should retire in rotation, under rules to be drawn up for that purpose.

The Committee desire to express their complete approval and satisfaction at the manner in which Miss Cartwright and Miss Gibson have performed their duties during the past year, and at the perfect harmony with which the work of the Society continues to be conducted.

The marked success which has been achieved during the three years of its existence, is the best possible augury of the increased and ever increasing success and usefulness which the Committee anticipate in the future for the Registered Nurses' Society.

Signed on behalf of the Committee of the Society,

BEDFORD FENWICK,
Chairman.

September 30th.

The accounts for the past year, audited by a chartered accountant, were read, and the Chairman moved the adoption of these and the annual report. This was seconded by Miss Child, and unanimously agreed to.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)