

members of the Association are sure to receive support and sympathy in their struggle for justice and liberty of conscience.

London says:—

“Our article of last week on the state of affairs in the Royal British Nurses' Association has created a great deal of public interest, and brought us volumes of correspondence. The Annual Meeting of the Association will be held this day week, when the present management will be indicted and a public inquiry demanded. It will be very difficult to get a representative meeting of nurses together, and still more difficult to get them to vote independently. They are very much inclined to follow the lead of the doctors and matrons of the institutions to which they belong.

THE FINANCES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The finances of the Association are not in a flourishing condition. The nurses get almost nothing for their money. The accounts for the year ending March last are not yet published, but the figures for the previous year are sufficient to indicate the situation. The income to the general account amounted to £1,218, and consisted of annual subscriptions, donations, sale of badges, special contributions, &c. Most of the expenditure goes to maintain the staff and the offices, £475 being absorbed in printing, stationery, office expenses, repairs, &c. A conversazione was held, which cost £112, and brought in £126; £104 is given to subsidise the official journal, and £180 to meet the expenses of registration. But nothing could be more characteristic of the policy of the Association than the contrast between the legal expenses and the amount spent in educating the nurses. Litigation cost £145 13s.—over a ninth of the whole income—and the “expenses of educational and sessional lectures” were £29 1s. 6d., and, as the fees were £9 7s., the net cost was only £19 14s. 6d. The registration expenses are also very heavy, amounting in salaries, &c., to £362, and the fees for registration were £157 10s. It seems to us from these figures that the nurses pay very heavily for all that they get in return.

It is contended, of course, that the Association has been the means of raising the standard of the nursing profession, but little has been done in comparison with the opportunities. Many other causes have contributed to increase the efficiency of trained nurses, including the inquiry into the management of London hospitals, the movement for better staffs in public hospitals, and poor law reform.”

This last clause is quite true, but the matrons have formally requisitioned on more than one occasion that the Association should undertake work such as a Preliminary Course of Nursing Education, and have invariably been out-voted by the medical members of the Executive Committee, who “do not consider that such work comes within the scope of the Royal British Nurses' Association,” and in the words of one well-known obstructionist, “We don't approve of any further education for nurses, and we don't intend to have it.”

London then goes on to print an “official” report from the Secretary of the Royal British

Nurses' Association of the General Council Meeting. The first clause of this is that Mr. Fardon did not answer the accusations in the now well known Protests against the management, he says, because of an impending lawsuit; instead, he suggests a vote upon the subject at the annual meeting, when, as we all know, the meeting will be packed as usual with those, who to their discredit have in self-interest supported injustice, tyranny, and dishonour, and who are willing at any moment to sell their birthrights for a mess of pottage.

Then follow three columns of letters from members who have the courage to expose the truth, many of whom demand a public and unbiassed inquiry into the complaints which have been plainly set forth in the Protests.

As we go to press, the Annual Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association is being held in the Conference Hall of the Imperial Institute. We are unable, therefore, to give an account of the proceedings in this issue, but hope to give a full report, next week.

Appointments.

MISS ISABELLA GORDON has been appointed matron of the Kimberley Hospital, South Africa. Miss Gordon was trained and certificated at the London Hospital, where she worked from 1888 to 1892. She was then appointed staff nurse at Gordon House Home Hospital, a position she held for three years, leaving to accompany Miss Vacher to Kimberley, where she was appointed to the position of sister. Miss Gordon is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and a registered nurse.

Miss Evelyn Hilton has been appointed assistant matron at the Midland Eye Hospital at Birmingham. Miss Hilton received three years' training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and also holds a certificate from the General Hospital, Newark.

Mrs. Graves, Matron of the Capel Hospital, near Tonbridge, has been appointed matron of the Woodbridge Hospital, under the Guildford, Godalming, and Woking Joint Hospital Board.

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