

siderable expense, because in former days they had to hire special rooms at £3 3s. a time, to hold their Council and general meetings in.

My Financial Report for the year ending March 31st, 1897, presents at least one feature of interest, inasmuch as special efforts have been made to reduce the liabilities of our Association. The receipts on the General Account, including the balance at our Bankers' of £96 17s. 7d. have amounted to £1,450 7s. 2d. In this total are comprised donations, £371 15s. 3d.; sale of work, £75 7s. 6d.; proceeds of theatrical entertainment, per Lady Duckworth, £158 11s. 1d.; annual subscriptions for three years, £135 12s.; annual life subscriptions, £225 15s.; and rents received, £78 5s. 10d. The receipts for the *Conversazione* for 1896, produced the sum of £113 8s. 9d., and the expenditure, that of £95 12s. 3d., leaving a surplus of £17 16s. 6d. on this account. The sale of badges amounted to £33 3s. The expenditure for the year amounted to £1,305 16s. 8d., so that we started the new financial year with a balance at the Bankers' of £144 1s. Our legal expenses have been unusually heavy, reaching a total of £205 16s. 9d., and it is with regret that I have to report such a heavy burden for our Association to bear. The expenditure for the year appears larger than the preceding one, and, in explanation, I wish to direct attention to the fact that the Association has, during this period, paid five quarters' rent, printing and Journal expenses. It has, moreover, paid for two editions of the Register, and the account of Messrs. Elkington for two years. The Journal account shows that £81 10s. have been received for advertisements and sales, while £181 11s. 3d. have been paid for printing, postage, and stationery, leaving an adverse balance of £100 1s. 3d., which has been transferred from the General Account. The Registration Account reveals an expenditure of £443 16s. 5d., and the receipts of £229 3s. 11d., leaving a deficit of £214 12s. 6d., which has been transferred from the General to the Registration Account. The audited accounts show that the total amount advanced to the Registration Board for its work to date, is £1,354 12s. 6d. This yearly increasing deficit occasions me much anxiety, and I hope some scheme may shortly be devised to relieve the Association of this serious financial outlook. Our efforts to improve our financial position have been attended with much success, for it will be remembered that in my last yearly statement, our liabilities amounted to £342 16s. 8d., with only £98 15s. 4d. to meet them. This year, we have a balance at our Bankers' of £144 10s. 6d., after having discharged all our debts with the exception of about £5 due for small accounts not yet presented. Our friends, to whom I am deeply indebted, have responded most generously to my appeal, with the result that we have received in donations the sum of £581 18s. 4d., in addition to £75 7s. 6d. obtained from the sale of work which was initiated and presided over by our Royal President, the Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein.

Dr. CALVERT, in seconding Mr. Langton's Report, said he did so with much pleasure; they all knew that the post of Treasurer to the Royal British Nurses' Association was no sinecure. Mr. Langton's duties during the last twelve months must have been most laborious, owing to the great amount of extra work thrown upon his shoulders by lawsuits and other airy trifles (Laughter). He thought nobody would con-

tradict him when he said that it was entirely due to Mr. Langton's efforts that they had to-day so favourable a balance at the bank.

Dr. FENWICK, in criticising the Hon. Treasurer's Report, said it absolutely proved everything that he had said at meetings of the Association, although those statements had been termed unfounded. During last year only 1,285 members paid their annual subscriptions out of 2,740 said to be on the Roll. Did they realise what that meant—that at least 800 to 1,000 members refused to support the Association, or to have anything to do with it? He regretted to observe that only 12s. had been given to nurses who needed pecuniary help, during the past twelve months. Even the nurses who cheered every statement made by the officials would, perhaps, feel sorry, that their suffering sisters, who joined the Association for "mutual help and comfort," according to the words of the Charter, had only got 12s. in the last twelve months, while £700 had been thrown away on office expenses and salaries. The accounts showed that during the last twelve months, £761 5s. 3d. more than the reliable income of the Society had been spent in conducting the Association. In that reliable income he included the amounts given in annual subscriptions by benevolent people for three years. The deficit would have been very much larger if he had only referred to the *ordinary* income of the Association, and had not included those sums. Finally, he had to say what he had said for the last three years: that the Association could not go on in this extravagant expenditure indefinitely; it could not even go on much longer, for he believed he was correct in saying that on July 1st, the balance at the bank was £4 10s. 1d. He desired to say that on every possible occasion he had recognised the heavy work that Mr. Langton had done, but he objected once more to the extravagant administration of the Association.

The Hon. Treasurer's Report was adopted *nem. con.*

The SCRUTINEERS for the election of the General Council for the ensuing year reported that 632 unaltered papers had been received. There were eighty papers altered, and twelve unsigned papers. Thirty-two papers were rejected owing to arrears of subscriptions.

The CHAIRMAN: The Council as proposed by your Executive Committee is elected by an enormous majority. I do not suppose you wish the names read, as the list has been in the hands of every member, and I therefore declare from the chair the names upon this list which has been circulated are those of the members duly elected to serve on the Council for the ensuing year.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK:—There are great objections felt to this list, and before you put the matter to the meeting—

The CHAIRMAN: The matter is closed. I have declared the Council duly elected. I call on the next speaker.

Dr. BEZLY THORNE, in rising to move the vote of thanks to H.R.H. the President, said that while he had the greatest consideration for the time and the feelings of the meeting, he must remind them that about twenty minutes or half-an-hour ago, he rose in reply to some criticisms of his conduct and was told that his opportunity would come. Having regard to the fact that at a recent meeting of the Association he had been accused of cowardice, he should like to

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