

every way to be most successful, both in its initiation, and in its progress during the past eleven months.

“Founded upon December 7th, 1887, the following two months were devoted to Conferences with leading members of the Medical profession, with the result that on February 13th, 1888, a great public meeting was held in St. George's Hall, which determined that the Association should be definitely organised upon bases which these Conferences had decided to be most advisable. Nearly one hundred Members were immediately enrolled, and by February 24th, the numbers had risen to three hundred and ninety-one. Upon that day the first General Meeting of Members took place at the Middlesex Hospital. The Bye-laws, which had been drawn up chiefly by a Committee of well-known Medical men and Matrons of Hospitals, were unanimously adopted, and the General Council and Executive Committee and Honorary Officers appointed. From that date, not quite eleven months ago, the progress of the Association has been rapid beyond all expectation, and even beyond all precedent. To-day the Executive Committee has the pleasure to report that 2,203 Members have been enrolled. But beyond this, permission has been granted for the formation of Branches in the Australasian Colonies, and in South Africa, the Members of which will probably swell the numbers of the Association by several hundreds. Financially the Association has been also most successful. As will be seen from the Accounts, which will be presented to the Council, the total receipts for the past year have been £736 5s. 6d., while the whole expenses, including the necessarily heavy preliminary charges for public and private meetings, printing and postage, altogether only amount to £216 1s. 8d., leaving a balance to the credit of the Association of more than £520. Out of this the Committee has invested £350 18s.—the exact amount received from Life Subscriptions and Donations. The fact, however, that the expenses have been so small, and the balance so large, is due to all the work having till lately been performed gratuitously. But the time has now arrived when the Association can well afford to pay for Offices of its own, and for the necessary clerical labour. The Committee, therefore, have decided to take suitable rooms as soon as possible, and have the pleasure to report that the assistance of Miss Catherine Jane Wood has been obtained for the Association as its Secretary.

“To come next to the work which the Association has already done, and what it proposes to do. Many meetings have been held to consider the provisions to be embodied in the Royal Charter, which it is the first and well-known

object of the Association to obtain. The matter is of such vast importance, that the Executive Committee strongly feels it should not be too hurriedly discussed and decided upon.

“At its last meeting this Council authorised the holding of a *Conversazione* and Meetings for the reading of papers on Nursing subjects. The Executive Committee has the great pleasure to report that a *Conversazione* was accordingly held at the Grosvenor Gallery, on December 7th, the first anniversary of the foundation of the Association, at which over one thousand persons were present, but the expense of which to the funds of the Association only amounted to £5 14s. 4d. A series of six Meetings has also been arranged, the first of which took place on November 23rd, and was attended by more than one hundred Members and visitors.

“Beyond this a scheme of practical Nursing knowledge has been drawn up, and Meetings have been held in many of the chief towns in the Kingdom in favour of the objects of the Association, most of which have been attended by Miss Wood, at the request of the Executive Committee.

“Finally, the Seal of the Association has been suitably engraved, and an impression of it is now here for the inspection of Members.

“So much for the work that has been done—all equally successful. For the future, this Council has authorised the foundation of a Benevolent Fund, to assist such Members as may be in need of temporary pecuniary assistance, but the benefits of which will probably be further extended in due time; the foundation of a Medal of Merit for Nurses, regulations for which will this day be submitted to this Meeting for its approval; the establishment of Convalescent Homes and Holiday Houses in the country, or at the sea-side, for the benefit of Members. How much or how little of these schemes—each requiring great organisation and large sums of money—the Executive Committee may be able to accomplish in this coming year cannot be foretold, nor what progress may be made with the first and greatest scheme of all—the acquirement of the Royal Charter. But in view of the unexampled success which has hitherto attended the efforts of the Association, the Committee are encouraged to hope for much more in this coming year. Under Bye-law V., the Council has to decide the conditions under which Members can now be admitted. The Executive Committee recommends that the provisions of Bye-law IV. be continued in force for another year. The Committee cannot close this Report without acknowledging most gratefully the assistance it has derived from the advice and support of Her Royal Highness the President, the value of which to the Association has been quite incalculable.” (Loud applause.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)