

her reprove those, for whose efficient work she is responsible, for having shirked or neglected their duty, and she will at once be stigmatised overbearing, and tyrannical, and be unpopular." Over and over again the conviction is forced upon us that, if a matron desires rightly to perform the responsible duties of her office, she must recognize the fact that she will in all probability have to do so in the face of misunderstanding, and misrepresentation, and that she must be prepared to look around her and see her colleagues, whose aims have not been so single as her own, in smooth waters, and spoken well of on all sides, when her own horizon is stormy, and her path in life difficult. She must be prepared to follow right for its own sake, without any hope of recognition of her work. Happy the women who realize this position and deliberately accept it. They are the redeemers of their profession.

### Royal British Nurses' Association.



THE Quarterly Meeting of the General Council was held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on Friday, January 14th, 1898, at 5 p.m. Mr. Pickering Pick took the chair.

The notice convening the meeting was read, and the minutes of the last Ordinary and Special Meetings of the General Council. The former were confirmed. On the latter, Dr. Bedford Fenwick called attention to a misstatement, ascribed to Mr. Fardon, that the Bye-Laws were brought before the Executive Committee on July 2nd, whereas they were produced to that body on June 4th. After some discussion, it was found that Dr. Fenwick was correct, and the minutes were altered accordingly, and were then confirmed.

Mr. JOHN LANGTON (Treasurer) then read the following report, and moved its adoption:—

"The most important information I have to report, and one that is very acceptable to the Council, is the sub-letting of the first floor and the two front rooms on the third floor to Messrs. Cox & Edwards, for the sum of £180 per annum, and in addition, a yearly payment of £20 for the partial services of our caretaker.

"The agreement was only arrived at after much correspondence with Mr. Bluck, our landlord. Before, however, obtaining his consent, we had to pay a premium of £50, which entitles us in the future to sub-let to other tenants without any further premium being paid.

"The full correspondence relating to this negotiation has been reported to the Executive Committee of January 7th, 1898.

"During the last quarter I have received the sum of £350, including a loan of £100, and the expenses have amounted to £260 17s. 1d. The balance on December 31st was £162 2s. 0½d. Our liabilities amounted to:—Prince's Hall Supper for *Conversazione*, £46 11s. 0d.; Druce & Co., £1 12s. 0d.; Elkington & Son, £7 13s. 9½d.; Electrophone Company, £2 13s. 6d.; Hutchings, £70 5s. 6d.; Expenses of General Meeting, £2 7s. 6d.; Rent, £56 5s. 4d.; Marshall & Snelgrove,

£3 8s. 0d.; Institute of Painters in Water Colours, £22 7s. 6d.; total, £213 4s. 1½d."

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK said he had much pleasure in seconding the adoption of this Report, because it once more proved how correct he had been in his condemnation of the extravagant management of the Association. His criticisms had again and again been denied. They were now being proved in every Report to the Council. Mr. Langton now congratulated the Council on sub-letting the premises of the Association to the extent of £200 a year. Everybody must surely be able to comprehend that, if this saving could now be made, the Association had been extravagantly wasting that £200 a year for the last four years. In the next place, he regretted to observe, from the figures, though the Report did not directly reveal the fact, that despite another loan of £100, the Association on December 31st was more than £51 in debt. Then it was noticeable that, this year, the Treasurer did not specify the receipts from the *Conversazione*, so presumably, there had been a loss, although it was the smallest gathering there had ever been at this annual function.

Mr. LANGTON said that there had been a small loss of a few pounds on the *Conversazione*, but he regarded it as a most successful and satisfactory gathering because more nurses had been present at it than on any previous occasion.\*

The Report was then adopted unanimously.

Mr. EDWARD A. FARDON then read the following:—

"The Executive Committee beg to report that forty-nine Nurses have been registered in the last three months, thirty-two Members have been elected, eight have withdrawn, and one has died.

"The Treasurer has already reported the sub-letting of part of the premises to Messrs. Cox & Edwards.

"The Association is greatly indebted to Sir John Lubbock for his kindness in delivering a Sessional Lecture to the Nurses on December 1st, 1897. The subject of the lecture was 'Ants.' There was a very large and appreciative audience of members and others.

"The Annual *Conversazione* was held at the Institute of Painters in Water Colours on December 15th, and proved a very successful gathering. About five hundred and fifty members and their friends were present, and the entertainment, ably organized by Dr. Comyns Berkeley, was greatly appreciated by all. Mr. David Devant, of the Egyptian Hall, also kindly gave selections from his clever shadow *salon*, and the electrophone, fitted up for the occasion by the Electrophone Company, was a source of great amusement.

"On December 20th, under the patronage of H.R.H. the President, an excellent concert was given, through the kind exertions of Miss Foggo Thomson, by Miss Maud Danks, in aid of the Benevolent Fund of the Association. The attendance was very good, and it is hoped that a substantial sum will be handed over to the Treasurer for the benefit of members in distress through illness. The Committee desire to express their hearty thanks to Miss Foggo Thomson, and to all the performers, for this substantial donation to the Benevolent Fund.

"The Committee have to express their thanks for gifts to the Library from Miss Townsend, Miss Fanny Watson, and Mr. Stear.

\* This is totally inaccurate. For example, there were certainly not 500 Nurses present last December. At the *Conversazione* in 1888 there were over 800 Nurses, and at the gathering in 1892 there were more than 900.—Ed.

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