

Treasurer, Lady De Bosch Kemper, remarked that she had written it, influenced by the recent occurrences in our nursing-world, and quite independent from the chairman, and therefore, as a matter of course she would fall into reiterations. The report was as follows:

"There is not much to tell every year of an association like this. Furthering of the cause of sick-nursing by co-operation of all who take interest in it, by raising the standard of the work, by more unity in the methods of training, all this is the fruit of experiences, not at once acquired.

For instance, the regulation, that a nurse must have worked during three succeeding years in a hospital with at least forty beds, and where medical as well as surgical patients are nursed, before being admitted to the examination and getting a certificate, acknowledged by the Bond, met with a violent opposition in our first meeting in '93, but time has proved that our best nurses do not think this demand unrighteous, while the medical superintendents of our hospitals have done their uttermost to make the work less fatiguing.

The old conviction of deeming one's self able to do something without much exertion and pains, and on the other hand of forgetting that the demands of sick nursing, are, nowadays, quite other than in former years, is slowly making way for the conviction, that nurses must prepare themselves for their important task by working with zeal and earnest and thorough perseverance; and by the noble efforts of the Boards of our greater hospitals to improve the terms on which nurses are engaged and promoted.

The desire, felt in our day by the nurses, for more co-operation and unity is spoken of with great enthusiasm, but why is it, that so many sisters, in the possession of a certificate given by a hospital or society for sick nursing, who have joined the Bond, do not want to have their names registered? And yet by doing so they put themselves under no obligation whatever, not even that of being member or donator of the Bond, and attacked by illness or in cases of a slow convalescence the Bond has already often given its aid to several registered nurses. The sisters, that have followed a course in cooking, have proved themselves most thankful for what they have learned, and yet there are a large number of nurses, who do not remember the fact, that the Bond is willing to give financial support also in this line.

Once a year a general meeting is organised by the Board of Managers, when nursing matters are discussed and the nurses have an opportunity of furthering their own interests, yet how many of the 323 members and donators attend those conferences?

I know perfectly well that the busy, nervous life nowadays is putting great and heavy demands on many persons, but one must bear in mind the truth, that the furthering of common interests can only be brought about when each one individually gives not only his contribution in cash, but also in sympathy and active power.

The resigning members of the Board of Management, Dr. J. Kniper and Lady van Bylandt Rheydt, will be replaced by Dr. A. Couvée, Medical Superintendent of the Jewish Hospital and Lunatic Asylum at Amsterdam, and Miss M. des Amorie van der Hoeven, Matron of the Society for District Nursing at Rotterdam.

A credit of 1,000f. (£84) is granted to the board of management for spending this money on behalf of nurses."

#### A FALSE STEP.

The demand of "The Hague Committee for the Training of Nurses" to join the Bond gave rise to a lively discussion. The above-named committee, which gives certificates for general nursing to its candidates for examination, and demands a three years' training in one or more hospitals, compels the candidates to have followed a complete course in sick nursing.

So far all goes well, but now comes the stumbling block.

The Hague Committee will also certificate nurses who have received their training in a lunatic asylum under medical control. The candidates must, however, have a certificate from the Dutch Society for Psychiatry and Neurology, and an attest from the chief physician or from the medical superintendent, that they have been working for the space of a year, after having passed their examination before the above-mentioned Society, in a lunatic asylum or some other hospital, theoretically as well as practically, and that he thinks them worthy to get a certificate for general sick-nursing.

A great many scruples were expressed and objections made by those present.

Several medical men expressed as their firm opinion that a full training in general nursing cannot be given in a lunatic asylum. Their objections related, as a matter of course, only to the practical, not to the theoretical part, which may be perfect. The practical training will always be imperfect, etc., etc.

The advocates of the scheme laid great stress upon the fact that the Hague Committee, consisting of men who are fully competent to judge in this matter, has reserved to itself the right of refusing the admittance to the examination to candidates which they think unfit.

After many arguments the proposal of the Board of Managers of the Bond to register the certificates given by the Hague Committee was accepted by a majority of votes.

#### THE CONTROL OF PRIVATE NURSES.

With the view to the deeply felt necessity of putting the private nurses under the control of societies for sick-nursing, district-nursing, or homes for sisters, Dr. A. Couvée gave a splendid lecture on "mock nurses," who are bringing discredit on all the nurses *en bloc*. The Bond, which will take care, according to its laws and regulations of the moral character of sick-nurses, and of furthering the moral and physical interests of all those who have devoted themselves to nursing work, must take measures in order to fight this evil.

In answer to this Dr. Gulderarm, Member of the Board of Management, alluded with a few words to the question of reorganisation spoken of by him at the general meeting last year, and which will soon be taken in hand.

After some discussions concerning the *Maandblad voor Ziekverpleging*, the organ of the Bond, that I do not think of the least interest to my English readers, and the showing of some nursing materials, used with great success in the Wilhelmina Hospital at Amsterdam, the meeting was brought to its end by the Chairman.

HOLLANDIA.

Amsterdam, July, 1900.

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