

With this view different committees may be appointed by the general meeting in response to a request from the head management or any section. Thus the future may possibly give us a Committee for the regulation of the very difficult and entangled question of the pensioning of nurses; another for the solution of the problem of training and examination, in order to bring forth some uniformity and regularity from the present chaos.

These, and still more problems, offer a large field of study and work for the metamorphosed Dutch Association for Sick-nursing.

The new projected laws and by-laws formed the main point of discussion at the annual general meeting. They were accepted by the assembly with only a few modifications. The resigning members of the Board of Management, Dr. H. L. van Linden van den Heuvel and Dr. J. A. Guldenarm, will be replaced by Dr. J. van Deventer, Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Meerenberg, and Dr. P. H. van Eden, Medical Superintendent of the City Hospital at Leenwarden.

A credit of f.1,000 (£48) was granted by the Assembly to the Board of Management. This money will be spent on behalf of nurses. The next meeting will be held at Utrecht, a city in the centre of our country, and for this reason most fit for the assembly of persons coming from all parts.

THE WILHELMINA SOCIETY.

The Wilhelmina Society; but let me first of all introduce that Society to those among your readers, who, perhaps, are not yet acquainted with that association. The Wilhelmina Society aims at the improvement and raising of the nursing of the insane. It extends its care and efforts to all male and female nurses, who devote themselves to that branch of nursing work in Holland and its colonies, and especially to those who are nursing in lunatic asylums.

The Society tries to reach its aim, (a) by the finding and helping of persons fit for being trained as mental nurses; (b) by furthering and facilitating the judicious training of those persons; (c) by the founding of homes, in which male or female nurses, who are needing rest or without an employment, may be boarded for some time; (d) by the giving of aid to male and female nurses in cases of chronic diseases, sickness, or old age. After this short deviation we may *revenir à nos moutons*.

The Wilhelmina Society, that counts already more than a thousand members, a considerable number for a small country like ours, has recently opened the Wilhelmina Home at Amsterdam. The aim of the founding of this Home is fourfold.

The Wilhelmina Home is to be a preparatory training school, in which young women who desire to devote themselves to the nursing of the insane, are trained without any expenses upon their part. It is to be a centre for those Sisters who are without employment, and where the weakened and tired nurses may find the rest, so urgently needed by them, in order to regain their physical and moral strength. The Matron of the Home is bound to keep a register of the nurses, which enables her to give the wished-for information to all those who are needing the services of the nurses. The Home will be a place where mental nurses can be found who are most fit for their task. The Wilhelmina Society is already in the possession of two Sanatoria for Nurses.

In my next letter I hope to tell you something more of the nursing of the insane in Holland.

HOLLANDIA.

"The Beauty of Unimportance."

We hope our readers are following carefully the correspondence between Miss Macvitie, an old and respected member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and Miss G. A. Leigh, the Secretary of that Society, as it is eminently instructive. Nothing could have proved our contention that the nurse members of this Association are treated in the most contemptuous manner, not only by the Hon. Officers, but also by their paid officials. The suggestion upon the part of Miss Leigh to omit Miss Macvitie's name from the Midwives' List, upon her own personal responsibility, is grossly irregular under the provisions of the Royal Charter, and upon a par with her insulting reference to the professional women, whose servant she is—in a pamphlet written by her, entitled "Why Nurses should join the Association," in which she has the bad taste to ask the Lady Consuls to "Tell your young nurse to come and labour with us. *Let her learn first the beauty of unimportance.*" We hope those Lady Consuls who value their professional *status*, and that of the nurses with whom they come in contact, grasp the significance of this insolent message.

Personally we are surprised at trained Matrons placing themselves in such an invidious position as to be dictated to by a laywoman, and one, moreover, who is a paid official in the office of a trained Nurses' Association. It is not surprising that nurses are sometimes inclined to question the attitude of Matrons towards them professionally, when they realise that their birth-right is being sold for a mess of pottage. What have the representative Matrons on the General Council and the Lady Consuls done to protect the nurse's interest on this Midwife's List question? Echo answers "What?"

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