

in connection with their Alma Mater. It is only right that the first League of Scotch Nurses should be formed in connection with the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

The Nurses' Co-operation.

The eleventh Annual Report, 1901, of the Nurses' Co-operation is to hand, and a most satisfactory Report it is, as it shows that the prosperity of the Society is well-maintained. There are now 492 Nurses on the General Staff, and 20 Asylum Trained Nurses to take Mental cases only. We think the Committee have determined very wisely in deciding not to increase the staff beyond 500 nurses. This number makes the Co-operation thoroughly representative and influential, and should not be exceeded, owing to the difficulty of the Committee and officials keeping in active personal touch with a greater number of nurses.

The Committee reports that it realises the difficulty which private nurses have in attending meetings regularly, and states that it has under consideration a plan for securing to them a larger representation, which may bring more of them into the direct administration of the business of the Co-operation. We hope that the nurses will prove that they value the privilege of self-government, by availing themselves briskly of every means provided for taking a personal interest in the management of their own affairs. We hear a good deal of clamour for power amongst women, but see very little self-sacrificing energy in attaining and using it. It is most sincerely to be regretted that the late Lady Howard de Walden—generous friend as she proved herself to be—made it a condition of her munificent gift, that Nurses on the Staff of the Co-operation should not be eligible to serve on the Home Committee. This appears to us a most gratuitous snub to the sex in general, and Nurses in particular.

THE FINANCIAL REPORT.

The Finance Committee, in submitting the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 1901, report that the gross receipts from patients amount to £45,014 2s. 4d., which is an increase of £1,317 17s. 5d. in the year. Of this sum £41,629 4s. 6d. has been paid to the Nurses, which is an increase of £1,215 6s. 7d. The very handsome sum of £1,326 12s. 2d. remains, the excess of income over expenditure. The cost of keeping up the Howard de Walden Home and Club has been £1,709 13s. 2d., and the receipts from the nurses who use it £1,458 7s. 9d., so that the upkeep has cost the Co-operation £251 5s. 5d., a deficit which we have no doubt will

be wiped out in future years as the Home gets into thorough working order.

The income of the Society, derived from Commissions on Fees, is the sum of £3,384 17s. 10d., being an increase of £102 10s. 10d.

A sum of £17 12s. 1d. has also been received as interest on money placed on deposit to accumulate, with a view of paying off the loan made to the Society, for 21 years, if necessary, by the late Lady Howard de Walden. The Committee propose to pay off a part of this loan at an early date.

It is a good bit of news that nurses who joined the Co-operation during the first five years of its existence (1891 to 1895 inclusive) will in future be charged 5 per cent., instead of 7½ per cent., on the Fees they take. The Committee consider that this will leave the necessary working balance in hand.

THE RULES.

Turning to the Rules, No. 2 states that "a Nurse will not be admitted to the General Staff unless she has had three years' experience of nursing, and holds a certificate from a recognised Training School attached to a General Hospital with over a hundred beds. Recent experience of Private Nursing is also necessary."

We could wish that the Committee demanded "a certificate for three years' training in a General Hospital containing not less than one hundred beds," instead of the somewhat uncertain standard of "three years' experience of nursing." Presumably, this concession is made to the standard in force at the London Hospital, which certifies its nurses at the end of two years' training, and then utilises them as private nurses largely for the benefit of the general funds for a further term of two years, as one-tenth of the Co-operation Staff are London Hospital Nurses.

The Co-operation is now quite strong enough to help to enforce the three years' term of practical training in the wards and certification, and by accepting a shorter term and standard, it encourages unfair competition in Private Nursing in the Metropolis by the London Hospital Private Nursing Staff, with a two as against a three years' certificate, and makes it possible for this charitable institution to exact a terrible toll from nurses bound by contract to serve it for four years.

We commend this point to the careful consideration of the Committee of the Nurses' Co-operation. We feel sure by exacting a three years' certificate from the London Hospital Trained Nurses they will be doing those particular nurses a very good turn, to say nothing of justice to those hospitals which enforce both for the benefit of the patients and the nurses, the three years' term of training.

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