

although the Society has been compelled, as usual, to decline cases, the members have been almost constantly employed, and their earnings have, therefore, been considerably more than nurses receive unless attached to a metropolitan co-operative society, working on the $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. basis; while the most emphatic satisfaction has been expressed by all for whom they have worked.

The earnings of the nurses who have been members throughout the past twelve months have varied from £145 ls. for 46 weeks' work, to £98 11s. for 29 weeks' work, the average being no less than £94 for an average of 38.8 weeks' work. As almost every member took eight weeks' holiday, and the average earnings of each of the above nurses per week were £2 9s.; there is good reason to believe that no other nursing association can show more satisfactory figures. During the year, while the large number of doctors who previously supported the Society have continued to give it their valued confidence, no less than 151 new practitioners have commenced to send to our offices for nurses, a fact of the greatest importance and encouragement as proving the increasing reputation of the Registered Nurses' Society amongst those best able to judge of the manner in which it performs its work.

The Committee desire to express their complete approval and satisfaction at the manner in which Miss Sophia Cartwright and Miss Hayland have performed their duties during the past year, and once more note with pleasure the absolute harmony with which the work of the Society continues to be conducted.

Signed on behalf of the Committee of the Society,

BEDFORD FENWICK,
Chairman.

July 24th, 1902.

Taking into consideration the flourishing condition of the Society, it was decided to terminate the lease of the present offices at 269, Regent Street, and move into more commodious and suitable premises in the spring.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was again elected the delegate of the Society to the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, and will attend the Conference to be held in Edinburgh in October. Letters were read from some of the Sisters regretting their inability to attend the meeting, and expressing their appreciation in warm terms of the services rendered to the Society by the hon. officers and the official staff.

After votes of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick for their continued interest in, and work for, the Society the meeting terminated.

S. E. CARTWRIGHT,
Secretary.

The Centralisation of Nurses in Berlin.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Lancet* writes under the heading "The Centralisation of Nursing":—"The number of trained nurses has considerably increased lately. Thirty years ago there were scarcely any trained nurses in Berlin apart from those employed in the hospitals. Nursing at home was mostly done by untrained people or by members of religious bodies, especially by the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, commonly called the Grey Sisters. Nursing at that time was, of course, an easy task, chiefly consisting in the administration of medicine and in the preparation of food. Nowadays, in the era of physical treatment, when hydro-therapeutic measures, massage, dietetic, and other cures are prevailing, nursing is an art and has become more and more the domain of a special profession—*i.e.*, of the trained nurse.

"This class now includes a lot of people some of whom belong to the religious or other associations, some to institutions based on the co-operative system, and others who are quite independent. Notwithstanding the great number of nurses and male attendants, it is often difficult to obtain the services of one, especially when the case is urgent and the help of a nurse is required at once. At times when influenza, scarlet fever, &c., prevail the family medical man may telephone to a dozen institutions without being able to procure a nurse. Especially is this the case where the institution has a good reputation, although nurses belonging to other institutions may still be disengaged.

"To avoid this inconvenience the editor of the *Deutsche Medicinische Wochenschrift*, Dr. Schwalbe, proposes to organise the nursing profession by instituting a central office where the public and medical men may be able to learn at any moment when nurses are temporarily unemployed. In the central office a register is to be kept where the names of all nurses, whether they belong to religious or other institutions or not, are to be booked. The managers or matrons of such institutions will have to inform the office every morning as to the number of nurses unemployed and to correct their statements by telephone at once when during the day a nurse has been called to a patient or has returned; any person desiring a nurse will then only have to apply to the central office. If a nurse of a certain corporation or a particular private nurse is required the office will then be able to say whether the desired nurse is available or which other nurse can be supplied. A good deal of time and trouble may be saved in this way.

"Dr. Schwalbe further indicates other advantages of the system—namely, that it will exercise some sort of control over the so-called 'free' nurses who do

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