

Or secondly, if there is no spray handy, you can take a spirit lamp and place over it a small porcelain dish, containing a tablespoonful of strong liquid carbolic acid. This will evaporate, mix with the atmosphere, and so carbolise it. Of course, both these manœuvres are done with the doors and window shut.

THE BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual Meeting of Members was held in the Guildhall, at Cambridge, on Wednesday, July 31, 1889, at 11.30, Professor HUMPHRY, F.R.S., in the chair.

The Secretary (Miss WOOD) read the Minutes of the first General Meeting.

The Honorary Secretary (Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK) read the Annual Report, which was as follows:—

The General Council has great pleasure in presenting to the first Annual Meeting of Members of the British Nurses' Association its first Annual Report, and the more so because it tells of an amount of success which at the inception of the scheme was hardly hoped for. A brief retrospect of the early days of the Association may with advantage perhaps be given. Founded upon December 7, 1887, the following two months were devoted to conferences with leading members of the medical profession, with the result that on February 13th, 1888, a great public meeting was held in St. George's Hall, Langham Place, which determined that the Association should be definitely organised upon bases which these conferences had decided to be most advisable. Nearly one hundred members were immediately enrolled, and by February 24th the numbers had risen to three hundred and ninety one. Upon that day the first General Meeting of Members took place at the Middlesex Hospital. The Bye-laws, which had been drawn up chiefly by a Committee of well-known Medical men and Matrons of Hospitals, were unanimously adopted, and the General Council and Honorary Officers were appointed. From that date, just seventeen months ago, the progress of the Association has been successful beyond all expectation, and even beyond all precedent. For two thousand five hundred and thirty-seven Members have been enrolled, and permission has been granted for the formation of branches in the Australasian Colonies, and in South Africa, the members of which will probably swell the numbers of the Association by several hundreds.

Financially, as will be shown by the Income and Expenditure Account, the Association is in a most prosperous condition, for it has been

enabled to invest all the Life Subscriptions and Donations hitherto received; and at the same time, despite the necessarily heavy preliminary expenses, to save nearly one third of the income thus far obtained from Annual Subscriptions. At present prices its investments amount to £800, at an average rate of about 4½ per cent.

The General Council has held six meetings, considered all the matters brought before it by the Executive Committee, and authorized the following schemes to be undertaken and carried out by the Association:—

1.—The formation of a Register of Nurses and Midwives.

2.—The formation of Convalescent Homes and Holiday Houses for Members.

3.—The formation of a Benevolent Fund to assist such members as may be in need of temporary pecuniary assistance; the benefits of which will doubtless be further extended in due time.

4.—The establishment of a Medal of Merit for Nurses, to be called the "Princess Helena Medal."

5.—The foundation of a Central Home in London, to gather together all Nursing interests under one roof, and afford lodgings for country members, and club advantages for London Nurses.

6.—The holding of meetings during each winter session for the reading and discussion of papers on Nursing subjects; of an annual *Conversazione* in London, and an annual meeting in some provincial town.

In fulfilment of this programme and of the primary purpose of the Association—the petition for a Royal Charter—the General Council has to report that the subject of Registration has been most carefully and thoroughly considered. It is clearly recognised that it is a great scheme for an Association to undertake. But in view of the undoubted evils which are existent in our midst; of the impunity with which any woman—however ignorant of Nursing—can term herself a Trained Nurse, and obtain employment, and bring about great danger to the sick by pretending to act in that capacity; of the powerlessness of the public or of Medical men to protect the sick against such women, or even against Certificated and Trained Nurses who become unworthy of trust; and of the material and moral injury to well-trained Nurses, and to the good name of the Nursing craft, which such women are daily causing, there can be no reasonable doubt that some remedy is urgently demanded. The British Nurses' Association suggests Registration of Trained Nurses, under legal powers, as a system which has worked excellently well in protecting the public from impostors in other skilled callings. It has endeavoured to persuade

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