

earnestly commended. It teaches several very important lessons. Its undeniable success once more conclusively proves the strength and organizing powers which the Association possesses, and the public and professional support which it has obtained. Every detail of the day's programme was evidently most carefully prepared, because, from beginning to end, there was not one hitch or difficulty. If one per cent. of the Members had attended the Meeting we should have considered it highly creditable, considering the obstacles and drawbacks to which we have alluded. But, as a matter of fact, we learn that more than one out of every twenty was present.

Then there must be also noted that fact to which we have before called attention, and the full significance of which, all acquainted with the life of a University town will thoroughly appreciate. The arrangements were so excellently conceived and carried out that the municipal authorities united with the heads of the University, in welcome and entertainment of the Association. The Guild-hall was placed at its disposal for the purposes of the business meeting, and the chair was taken by Professor Humphry. On the other hand, we learn that at the Garden Party given to the Members by the acting Head of the University, the leaders of the municipality were present. Unanimity upon this occasion, therefore, prevailed between the dual authorities, who are in proverbial disagreement upon most matters in every University city. And from this fact can be drawn the clear conclusion that the popularity and success of the movement must indeed be great which can produce such unusual and such auspicious results.

Passing, however, from this general view of the Meeting to the particular points mentioned in the Annual Report, our conclusions as to the present position and future prospects of the British Nurses' Association receive the strongest confirmation. Everyone must entirely agree with Dr. MacAlister, that no stronger inducement to Nurses to join their professional body could possibly be brought forward than the publication and circulation of this document. We most earnestly congratulate the Managers of the Association upon the remarkable success which they have achieved. The salient features in any undertaking are, of course, firstly, the extent, and secondly, the character, of the support which it can secure. In such a Union as the one we are considering, these features are represented by the number of Members, and by the financial condition. In these columns attention has frequently been called to the phenomenal and unprecedented numerical growth of the Association. Now there are definite figures published which are equally instructive upon the latter subject.

Attention may well be called in the first place to the large proportion of Members who have paid life subscriptions, or, in other words, have commuted their annual contributions for all their future years by making one payment at once. There is, therefore, conclusive proof of two facts, that one-tenth of the whole body of Members possesses the greatest confidence in the stability of the B.N.A.; for two hundred and fifty-eight must believe that it will at least last their lifetimes. Furthermore, the Association must include a considerable number of the richer class of Nurses, if so many can afford to pay the requisite sum to secure Life Membership. In the next place, it is worthy of notice that every life subscription and every donation has been not only safely invested, but so well placed as to yield an average rate of interest of more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with the additional certainty that the investments will increase every year in money value. In brief, then, upon this point, it may be said that the first financial statement of the Association proves that it already has more than £800 of invested capital, and an ordinary income from annual subscriptions of at least £500 a year. Such facts at any rate cannot be gainsaid or misinterpreted. And if Nurses are as shrewd as they are generally supposed to be, the publication of these facts will immediately and largely augment the number of Members.

When we turn to the account of the expenditure already incurred we find equal cause for admiration. When it is remembered how much has been done in the nineteen months since the formation of the Association was decided upon, it seems almost impossible that it can have been accomplished at so small a pecuniary cost. For an examination of the accounts reveals that the whole working expenses have only amounted to £370; because it must be noted that the expenditure upon Furniture practically represents an additional investment, and will, we presume, in future years, be accounted for as one of the assets.

We are glad to notice that the cost of the *Conversazione* is separately given, because we have often pointed out the striking significance of the fact that more than one thousand people were entertained at a total charge to the Association of less than £6. In truth, every line of this statement proves, beyond doubt or denial, how wisely and how well the funds have been administered by the Executive Committee.

At the last meeting of the General Council, we noticed that a proposal was made to form a Special Business Committee. This was not carried, and in view of the facts now made public, it would certainly seem to be entirely unnecessary for a body which can produce such successful and

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