

The Nurses' Co-operation.

The Annual Report of the Nurses' Co-operation, 8, New Cavendish Street, W., as the largest co-operation of trained nurses, is always of interest.

It is presented, by the Committee, to the Members of the Co-operation and to the Nurses on the Staff, the former being thirty-one ladies and gentlemen, and the latter 491 nurses on the General Staff and twenty-three Asylum-trained nurses, who take mental cases only.

This is an important point, which nurses will do well to note, because in any co-operation of nurses formed in the future they should take care that every nurse on the Society enjoys full membership. The nurses at 8, New Cavendish Street have every privilege which, under their constitution can be accorded to them by a liberal-minded Committee, but nothing can alter the fact that they have not the position of members.

The nurses who joined the Society since 1898 have hitherto paid 7½ per cent. of their earnings towards the expenses of management. It is now proposed to add to the senior members, who pay only 5 per cent., all nurses who joined previous to December 31, 1899, a fact which affords just cause for congratulation to all concerned, whether from the point of view of management or of the nurses themselves.

The Committee record the heavy loss sustained in the early part of the year by the resignation of Miss Roberts. "Her departure was regarded with very deep regret both by the nursing staff and the Committee, who take this opportunity of expressing their appreciation of the high standard of efficiency which Miss Roberts, by a combination of tact and energy, was able to maintain." She was succeeded by Mrs. Lucas, late Matron of the Coventry Hospital. We note with pleasure that "the financial position of the Nurses' Home and Club has materially improved under the excellent management of Miss Baker, and the Home Committee have pleasure in placing on record their perfect satisfaction in her administration as Home Sister."

We are sorry to note that death has deprived the co-operation of one of the staff—Nurse Mabel Lewis—after a painful illness.

In regard to finance, the Finance Committee is able to show that the gross receipts from patients amounted to £45,225 4s. 10d. Of this sum the nurses have received £42,417 16s. 7d. The receipts show a decrease of £319 9s. 1d., so that the co-operation has not been exempt from the effects of the exceptionally quiet season last year.

The invested funds amount to £1,999 14s. 5d. The nurses of the Co-operation have, therefore, reason to be proud of a Society which has proved not only a professional but a financial success.

North and South.

NOTES BY M. C. FAIR.

Some weeks ago I noticed in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING a little paragraph concerning a deputation, composed of a Secretary and an Assistant Matron, who journeyed from a London hospital to the north of England to endeavour to solve the problem of the superior economy of administration of some of the great northern hospitals. If I am not mistaken, they found the question was answered principally by "environment." It certainly is true that the North is more frugal in nearly every way than the South. The patients differ as largely as the administrations of the different hospitals, and it may, perhaps, interest south country nurses to hear how our hardy folk live here in the conservative dales where modern fashions gain ground but slowly. The dale folk are sturdy folk, as, indeed, they must be; good patients *when* you can persuade them to go to bed and stay there, or when overtaken by accident. They can render splendid assistance to doctor or nurse, too, in the way of first aid, for their nerve is unshakeable, and they do not lose their heads. A corduroy-clad quarryman, who has never been inside a hospital before, does not sound a hopeful assistant at an emergency operation, the patient being his brother with a fractured skull, into which fracture my little finger-end would penetrate. Nevertheless, he was first-rate, quiet, obedient, resourceful, quick-witted. They are gentle as they are strong, these dwellers amongst the mountains, making light of damages that would nearly kill a southerner with shock to a weaker nervous system. One friend of mine showed me a scar at the back of his head that must, when done, have been a hideous gash. He had slipped on an ice slope one night at the foot of Sea Fell and glissaded headlong into a rude and broken stone wall.

"I suppose you went down to the doctor and had it stitched?" I remarked.

"Nay," was the answer. "What would I be troubling him with that bit knock for? There was a veterinary fellow at t' hotel, and he just dabbed a kind o' spirit stuff on, an' clapped a bit clout (cloth or rag) on, and it healed oop o'yit sel'!"

Many a gallant life has been lost in these dales in a fruitless endeavour to save hound or sheep even, let alone a human being, who has got into difficulty and danger on the fells. Pain and suffering is patiently endured; only unless you have your patient hard and fast in hospital, it is difficult to make him believe the necessity of bed. It is not so long ago that I heard of a dalesman with pneumonia going into his garden to dig potatoes!

The rate of wages is not, on the whole, higher than in the south, but they make the money go further, and there is not the same degree of squalid poverty. The north countryman has a sturdy pride in his

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)