

in the medals and badges worn by many of the Sisters." The Committee, medical and nursing staff were all on the *qui vive*, and greatly enjoyed pointing out the improvements in the institution, which was lavishly decorated for the occasion to the Royal visitors.

### The Nurses' Co-operation.

The Annual Report of the Nurses' Co-operation, 8, New Cavendish Street, is always interesting as proving what nurses are able to accomplish when they co-operate to manage their own affairs instead of placing themselves under the direction of a committee on which they have no voice, giving their services on payment of a certain salary.

Last year was the best financially that the Co-operation has had since its foundation. The gross receipts from patients amount to £45,972 9s. 9d., of which £43,213 5s. 8d. has been paid to the nurses. The increase on the previous year's earnings is £747 4s. 11d., but last year there was a falling off of £319 9s. 1d., which must be taken into consideration when estimating the actual increase.

The income of the Society from commission on fees, and investments, was £2,845 11s. 10d., and after all the working expenses have been paid, together with the charge in respect of the Home and Vandyck Mansions, the Society is left in the satisfactory position of having an excess of income of £830 11s. 4d. The finances are in so prosperous a condition that the Committee feel justified in adding to those who pay only a 5 per cent. commission all nurses who joined the Co-operation in 1900, making the total number of nurses paying this percentage 366.

The report notes that under the excellent management of the Howard de Walden Home by the Home Sister, Miss Baker, the improvement in its financial position has been maintained.

We regret to notice the deaths of three nurses, Nurse Rudkin, Nurse Susan Jury, and Nurse Tarbuck during the past year.

The staff now numbers 493 nurses on the general staff and twenty-one asylum trained nurses. The Committee are therefore, we think, wise in their decision not to increase this number, but only to take on new nurses as vacancies occur. The enormous increase in the use of the telephone has rendered additions to the equipment necessary.

The Committee and the nurses of the Co-operation are to be congratulated on a very excellent report.

### Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



If he never does anything else for the people of London, the Hon. Sydney Holland has well earned their gratitude in accomplishing the reconstruction of the London Hospital. After occupying close upon eight years, and involving an expenditure of nearly half a million of money, the rebuilding of the institution is finally complete, for the last of the workmen have packed up their tools and departed home. The work was commenced in 1897 on a promise of £5,000 a year from the King's Hospital Fund if the trustees would spend £100,000 on improvements. A total of £430,000 has been actually disbursed, the building almost entirely reconstructed and rendered the most completely equipped and self-contained hospital in London. It manufactures all its own physics, pills, and ointments; ice, soda water, electric light and "power"; does its own washing to the extent of about 5,000 articles each week; has wards and class rooms of every kind, all up to date; departments such as X-ray, Finsen light, and other "ray" cures; boasts of an out-patients' ward which can accommodate 1,500 people; thirteen operating theatres, and a home for 250 nurses. Happily, it starts on its new career free of debt owing to the generosity of liberal subscribers, many of whom helped the rebuilding fund with acceptable contributions of £25,000. Mr. Holland has a first-rate coadjutor in the present Secretary, Mr. Morris. The names of Sir Robert and Lady Hunter naturally occur to those who in 1891, before the happy advent of Mr. Holland, so courageously advocated the thorough reform of the London Hospital, from cellar to garret, in the face of ignorant and intolerant opposition upon the part of the Committee and their supporters. We have much sympathy with the "explorers," after them the pioneers are sure to come along and use their tracks.

Proposing the toast of the evening at the dinner of the Hospital Saturday Fund Association, Mr. F. Hastings Medhurst said that the movement was instituted some thirty years ago, and it had very small beginnings, it being scarcely able to collect more than £5,000 a year. Now he found that last year the record amount of £26,000 had been raised. If one had to say what was the most characteristic sign of the times, what marked out the past fifty years from any other similar epoch in English history, he would say it was what one sees nowadays more pronounced than ever—the recognition on the part of the people themselves of their responsibilities to and for themselves. He remarked that of the £26,000 collected last year, three-fourths had been raised by the artisan community itself. The money had been collected mainly by means of weekly subscriptions, and was from £1,600 to £1,700 in advance of any previous year. The working expenses amounted to less than 10 per cent. of the receipts. The Fund was well managed, and this fact was a

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