

Nurses' Social Union.

The Nurses' Social Union is making steady way in Somerset. Its objects are:—

1. To keep nurses in touch with the new developments of their profession.
2. To give them an opportunity of meeting one another, and others interested in their work.
3. To provide the solitary ones with friends and recreation.
4. To hold up a high ideal of work and thought.

Branches have now been started in every part of the county, and Miss Amy Hughes has kindly consented to be its President.

During February three meetings have been held, one at Mrs. Bligh's house in Minehead, for the nurses of the Minehead centre, where an able lecture on foods and feeding was given by Miss J. M. Joseph.

A second for the Bristol centre was by kind invitation of the Matron, Miss Morris, held in the Bristol General Hospital, all the wards of which were thrown open to the guests while an admirable lecture and practical demonstration, which was a treat to all, was given by Dr. Kenneth Wills on Finsen Light and Röntgen Rays.

The third meeting was at Miss Evans' house at Kingston for the Taunton centre. This centre is the first established, and its fortunate nurses have had many happy afternoons there, but all agreed that they had appreciated none more than this, when a most interesting lecture on nursing in the tropics, illustrated by lantern slides, was given by Miss Vicary, late Sister of the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford. These gatherings can be arranged with comparatively little trouble, and are productive of far-reaching good.

King Edward Seventh's Fund.

The Countess of Aberdeen has become Patroness of King Edward VII.'s National Fund for Nurses in Ireland. This association was founded in commemoration of the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Edward VII., for the purpose of assisting "in the times of adversity, sickness, and old age, medical, surgical, obstetric, and mental female certificated nurses, practising their profession in Ireland." It is now practically supported by subscriptions obtained from nurses who are members of the Society, and has already been the means of assisting several members who had fallen into adverse circumstances through no fault of their own.

The Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives.

The Annual Meeting of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives was held on Friday, March 2nd, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Cosmo Bonsor, the chair was taken by Mr. Arthur L. Leon, L.C.C., J.P., Hon. Treasurer of the Association.

The adoption of the Report, which was in the hands of the meeting, was moved by Mrs. Wallace Bruce, who said that the Association welcomed help, support, advice and criticism, but mostly was in need of an income with which to cope with the work. Since the Midwives' Act came into operation, an enormous number of midwives had retired from practice. Statistics collected in twenty counties proved that while the number of midwives practising in the past in those counties was 10,260, the number certified or intending to practise under the New Act was in October, 1904, only 2,612, proving that a large proportion of midwives intended to retire from practice now that training for, and supervision of, their work was compulsory. The speaker stated that 433 women had applied to the Association for training during the year, of whom 26 were accepted. It was found, however, that unless the candidates were sent by a society which desired their services eventually it was exceedingly difficult to place pupils when trained. At the present time the Association had three or four excellent midwives which it was desirous of placing. The demand was not keen, and the salaries offered were too small. She did wish that people would recognise that a living wage meant more than £30 or £40 a year.

The County Council Lectures to Midwives had been an important development. The organisation of the audiences had fallen on the Association. The midwives who attended the lectures had shown the keenest interest in them.

The Association's Training Home at East Ham had trained fifteen pupils three at a time, most of whom had passed the examination of the Central Midwives' Board. From various reasons two pupils at the last examination had failed to satisfy the examiners.

A plan for making the midwives which it trained Associates of the Association was now under consideration. A badge with the motto, "Mercy, Pity, Truth, and Love" was suggested, and it was hoped to arrange one or more gatherings annually.

Mrs. Bruce announced that it was hoped to have a large meeting on May 17th, by the kind permission of Lady Brassey, at her house in Park Lane, when Lord Balfour of Burleigh would preside. She then moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Miss Lucy Robinson and supported by Miss Rosalind Paget and carried. Miss Broadwood, of the Cottage Nursing Benefit Association, asked if the midwives referred to by Mrs. Bruce, had had general training, it appeared that two of them had, and Miss

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