

all these advantages, he was profoundly ignorant of the state of the hospitals can it be wondered that Ministers 3,000 miles off became but gradually acquainted with the facts existing? On whose assurances were they to place reliance if not on those of the British Ambassador at Constantinople?"

The Hon. and Rev. Sidney Godolphin Osborne, known as the *Times* correspondent, "S.G.O." wrote to Mr. Herbert from Scutari:—

"As to Miss Nightingale and her companions, nothing can be said too strong in their praise. She works them wonderfully, and they are so useful that I have no hesitation in saying some twenty more of the same sort would be a very great blessing to the establishment."

After discussing the situation at length, he concludes:

"If more nurses come, send a good *chef* with them as Lieutenant-Colonel to the Nightingale."

Everyone combined to praise the change wrought for the better in the hospital by Miss Nightingale and her nurses, and Mr. Herbert, writing to the Director-General, said: "I am clear that Miss Nightingale is succeeding and is of great use in the hospital. I suspect that there has been a soreness which induced refusals of offers of gifts and assistance, but that is wearing off now. . . One of the reasons I am told that the French hospitals appear so well provided is that they accept gifts wherever they can get them, and shirts, lint, and a hundred other things are sent by ladies and others."

So that we see that on all sides the fruit of Miss Nightingale's genius for organisation was appreciated, and the wisdom of Mr. Herbert in realising that only a woman can do woman's work was abundantly justified, but history proves that this revolution in the management of military hospitals was not accomplished in kid gloves.

(To be concluded.)

The Nurses' Co-operation.

The report adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the Nurses' Co-operation, 8, New Cavendish Street, London, W., on Tuesday last gives a very satisfactory account of the year's work. The gross receipts from patients amount to £45,851 18s. 7d., of which £43,154 1s. 3d. has been paid to nurses. There is a decrease in the receipts of £120 11s. 2d. as compared with 1905, but an increase of £626 13s. 9d. as compared with 1904.

From March 1st, 1906, further additions

were made to the list of nurses paying only a 5 per cent. commission, and the 362 who joined the Society before the end of 1900 now pay at this rate. This affords an excellent testimony as to what can be accomplished by nurses, by co-operation, as well as to the business capacity of the Committee and Secretary.

The Committee express their complete satisfaction with the able administration of the Lady Superintendent, Mrs. Lucas, and with her careful control of the expenditure.

They also report that the rates and taxes constitute a heavy and increasing burden on the Nurses' Home and Club, and that in face of these difficulties Miss Baker deserves special congratulations for her excellent management.

One of the first nurses who joined the Co-operation, Nurse Rapson, has had the honour of receiving the Royal Victorian Medal at the hands of H.M. the King. The medal, which is in bronze, was awarded in acknowledgment of the services rendered by Nurse Rapson to H.R.H. the Princess Royal.

St. John's House.

St. John's House, after nearly 30 years occupation of the houses in Norfolk Street, Strand, which have become endeared to many generations of nurses, has now removed to 12, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, a situation which has its advantages in a pleasanter outlook, and greater quiet than the former house possessed. The new houses are just opposite the National Hospital, and will readily be identified by the statue of St. John, subscribed for by past and present nurses and friends of the house, which is to occupy a niche in the centre of the building. On entering the front door we find the board-room on the right and the visitors' room on the left; very noticeable are the handsome mahogany doors, which are a great feature of the new house. The recently erected well staircase in oak is generally approved, with its broad and shallow steps, and fine bannisters, with tortoiseshell ornamenting the corner posts at intervals. The landings are large and airy, and there is abundant cupboard room. The nurses have not only a sitting room and a dining room, but a library also, which will be a great boon to those who wish for quiet. The majority of bedrooms are single rooms instead of cubicles, as in Norfolk Street. The Chapel has been moved and rebuilt exactly on the former plan, the one spot which remains unaltered, and gives a sense of home, and a link with days gone by, amongst all the changes.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)