

the employment of female nurses, who were of so much importance in the treatment of certain cases, had been the monopoly of their society, for the Japanese Army and Navy had no female nurses in their organisations. He emphasised the fact that the Japanese Red Cross Society was not a semi-official institution, as superficial observers might suppose, but a purely private organisation, maintained by the subscriptions of its 1,300,000 members. There was the strictest control of the Society, and all volunteer members were excluded from the organisation of the Relief Corps, except those who were ready to undertake real earnest work in time of war.

THE WAR AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

Dr. F. Ferriere, on behalf of the International Committee, submitted a report on the participation of Red Cross Societies in the Campaign against Tuberculosis, and moved a resolution declaring it to be desirable that Red Cross Societies should participate in time of peace in the campaign against tuberculosis, directing their attention more particularly to recruits refused as well as soldiers discharged from the Army as consumptive or likely to become so, and that the co-operation of the civil and military authorities was necessary in order to secure an efficient prophylactic.

THE NEXT CONFERENCE.

The Japanese Red Cross Society sent an invitation to the Conference inviting it to hold its next meeting in Tokio in 1912. The invitation was referred to the General Committee for consideration.

THE FOUNDER OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

One word as to the Founder of the Red Cross Society. We have closely followed the deliberations of the Conference, but have heard no mention of Henri Durant. To him, however, belongs the honour of having conceived the grand idea of an International Red Cross Society, and wherever this Society carries on its beneficent work the name of Henri Durant must ever be held in honour as that of the man who conceived an organisation so full of benefit to humanity.

Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund.

By the kind permission of Lord and Lady Ravensworth a drawing-room meeting was held at 71, Eaton Square, on Friday, the 14th.

The Earl of Hardwicke presided. This fund was originated in 1874 by Lady Bloomfield, when five annuities were granted. Since then the work has steadily and quietly developed, with the result that at the present time there are fifteen annuitants. The Committee are anxious to increase this number, as funds permit, there being many urgent cases waiting to be dealt with. General subscriptions showed an increase, and the sums given and collected by Matrons, Sisters, and Nurses were also slightly larger. The Society grant is £17 a year, and in order to foster provident habits, the Council gives a preference to nurses who can prove that they have saved

money regularly during their active nursing life. Lady Henry Somerset in advocating the claims of the Society, drew attention to the exacting nature of a nurse's work, and the self-sacrifice it frequently involved. In addition to the stress and strain of work, there was often the constant burden of future ways and means, in the event of sickness, old age, and consequent loss of work.

Major Lord Loch and Dr. Champneys also addressed the meeting, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Lord and Lady Ravensworth for the use of their room, and for their kind hospitality in providing tea.

Miss Sidney Browne, late Matron-in-Chief of the Army Nursing Service, has been appointed a member of the Council.

The Colonial Nursing Association.

The Annual Meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association was held, by kind permission of the Duke and Duchess of Westminster, at Grosvenor House, on Friday last. H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg, Patroness of the Association, was present, and the chair was taken by the President, the Lord Amptill, G.C.S.I.

In opening the proceedings, Lord Amptill referred to the absence of Mrs. Chamberlain, who, from its foundation had taken so keen an interest in the Association, and said that everyone hoped the improvement in her husband's health would be maintained, and that this great Statesman would once more participate in public affairs.

Two points were specially emphasised by Lord Amptill, the immense importance of the work carried on by the Association, and the small number of subscribers. In all, 112 persons contributed £465, and this sum would be reduced to less than one half without the generous subscription of Sir Alfred Jones, which was £250 per annum. If there were few who could afford to give much, there were also few who could not afford to give something.

In time of war people were ready to put their hands into their pockets, so that, indeed, the abundance of the gifts poured in was embarrassing, but the heroism of women who went out to nurse in tropical countries was as great, and they were engaged in a work as imperial, as patriotic, and even more beneficent than that of the fighting men. They should be treated with the same liberality.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., who moved the adoption of the report, and the re-election of the officers, said that our distant Dependencies were important to our future development, and even to our national existence, but their moral effect on the British race was even greater than their material value. If that was true we owed a debt to those men and women who represented us in distant parts of the Empire. No human foresight could entirely guard them against danger, but, as far as sickness was concerned, we could do something to save precious lives.

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