

The Scottish Nurses' Association.

The first annual meeting of the Scottish Nurses' Association was held in the Christian Institute, Glasgow, on October 30th. Sir William Macewen, the President, took the chair, and there was a large attendance of members and friends, the hall being very crowded. The President, in the course of his address, explained how the need for such a Society had been appreciated by trained nurses in various parts of Scotland, and congratulated the Association upon its already large membership, notwithstanding its very recent formation. He emphasised the necessity for an association which would endeavour to raise nursing to the dignity of a profession, with a distinguishing title for its graduates; which would enable nurses to express their opinions on matters affecting their professional interests, and to protect these interests when threatened. He pointed out how unequal the training of nurses is at present in various institutions, and how necessary it is, both from the standpoint of the nurses themselves and of the general public, to have a uniform minimum standard of education; and contrasted the unsatisfactory position of nurses in this country with those in the Colonies and on the Continent, where State registration is in force. At the close of the Presidential address the constitution was presented by Dr. M'Gregor Robertson, and thereafter the election of office bearers for the ensuing year was proceeded with, Sir William Macewen being elected President, and Mrs. Strong, late Matron, Glasgow Royal Infirmary; Miss Aitken, Matron, Belvidere Fever Hospital; Miss Horsnail, Matron, Northern Nursing Home, Aberdeen; Miss Tisdall, Matron, private nursing home, Glasgow; Miss Stevenson, Brechin; and Dr. M'Gregor Robertson, Glasgow, vice-presidents. Miss Burleigh, Matron, Royal Sick Children's Hospital, Edinburgh, was appointed treasurer.

Amongst other business, a motion presented by Miss Dutton, Rosneath, expressing the determination of the Society to oppose separate legislation for the State registration of nurses in Scotland and approving the efforts of the Royal British Nurses' Association and of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses to draw up one Bill for the United Kingdom under the single portal system, was carried unanimously.

A letter was read inviting the Scottish Nurses' Association to depute delegates to a Central Committee. It was resolved: "That this meeting of the S.N.A. receives with pleasure the invitation to join the proposed Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and remits the letter to the Executive with power to appoint delegates."

Replying to a question by Dr. Morton, Lightburn, the President explained that one of the aims of the Association was to obtain due recognition of the training of fever and other specialty nurses as equivalent to part of a course of instruction for a general certificate.

On the motion of Dr. Wallace Anderson, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the President.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The meeting of the British Medical Association will be held next year in London. Mr. H. T. Butlin, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, has been nominated as President-elect.

A few months ago public attention was directed to the needs of St. Bartholomew's Hospital by a Conference at the Mansion House between the Lord Mayor, the Treasurer of the Hospital, and the Masters of the leading City Guilds, when Lord Sandhurst, as Treasurer, explained the financial position, and showed that there is now a deficit of about £12,000 a year. A special fund has been started to liquidate the capital debt of £170,000, and thereby reduce the annual deficit, and the appeal, supported in a letter signed by the Lord Mayor, the Bishop of London, Lord Sandhurst, and many influential persons, will, we hope, meet with a widespread response.

The British Lying-in Hospital, Endell Street, has received a gift of £25 from the "Nimrod" Exhibition Fund. This hospital is doing very good work for poor women.

The London Hospital porters have been from time immemorial a corps of well-disciplined men—the very pink of politeness. "Stacey" was a very good friend of the Sisters in our day, and "Wilks" well esteemed of the students. Now another veteran, Mr. John Langdon, has resigned after forty-two years' service, and his reminiscences of the hospital's history since 1867—the year when cholera was raging in the East-End of London—should be worth securing by an enterprising editor. Mr. Langdon has been presented with a fine gold watch by his late colleagues at the hospital, and we hope with an adequate pension.

The Queen has intimated her pleasure that she will accept an album containing photographs of the children in costume who are to take part in the forthcoming ball in support of the Glasgow Maternity and Women's Hospital, of which Her Majesty is a patron.

Mr. John Jackson, Organising Secretary, writing on behalf of the "Mission to Lepers in India and the East," 33, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C., is appealing for special aid in view of the pressing needs of the Leper Asylums and Children's Homes. He states that in many parts of India prices of grain still remain practically at the level of the last famine, and a recent letter from a Bengal asylum states that rice and other food have risen to double the former rate. As the main expenditure of the above Society is for food, its position is a grave one, and unless prompt and liberal aid is received the doors of its forty Indian asylums must be closed against all new comers.

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