

her soft civility." Nevertheless she must have been an awesome person, for we get another glimpse of her when Miss Field "braced her shaken nerves to the trial of crossing the room to the table where the austere custodian of the hidden patient sat, alone and unsmiling."

The annual meeting of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Co-operation of Trained Nurses was held in the Charing Cross Halls, Glasgow, last week, when Lady Stirling Maxwell presided, and was supported by Lady Ure Primrose, Professor Glaister, Dr. W. L. Reid, Chairman of the Executive Committee, and others. There are at present 195 nurses on the Roll of the Co-operation. During the year ending September 30th 2112 cases were attended, the amount earned by the nurses being £12,580. The year's income was £1,544 7s. 9d., and the expenditure £1,268 11s. 9d. The report for the year appears eminently satisfactory, and we wish continued success to this Co-operation. In Scotland the managers of hospitals set an admirable example to those in England and Ireland—they do not utilise their trained nurses' services as a source of financial profit for the hospitals, and we hope they will never favour a system so indefensible and unjust.

At a special meeting of the Sutherland Benefit Nursing Association, held recently, a "special committee appointed," according to the *Inverness Courier*, "to consider and report on the financial position of the Association, recommended that as there is an annual deficit of over £100, and the prospect of the Association becoming insolvent in a few years should the invested funds be drawn upon further, each district committee should undertake the management of the district nurse, under the control of a central management committee, and the Association would be in a position to discontinue the office of Superintendent of Nurses, thereby saving a considerable sum annually." Ten voted for the adoption of the recommendation, which, strange to say, was moved by a medical practitioner, Dr. Simpson Golspin. Two voted against it. All honour is due to the (according to the press report) nameless individuals who opposed such a retrograde policy. In the early years of the Association's existence this method of management was adopted and found far from satisfactory. Hence the appointment in 1897 of a fully trained nurse and midwife. For years the Association's years were commenced with a substantial balance in the bank. It is, therefore, incredible that a committee of management which must be aware of these facts should

adopt a recommendation which can only act in a most prejudicial way against the interests of the institution. There is an extraordinary want of resourcefulness in a committee which can only recommend such a step as that which has been taken.

The Irish press has for several weeks past discussed at length the work and economic condition of nurses—incidentally the Matrons are somewhat brusquely criticised. One would imagine that these officials are to blame for hospital conditions. This is far from the truth. The majority of Matrons are doing all in their power to ameliorate nursing conditions, and in Dublin have taken the initiative in every scheme for upraising the profession. Nurses are notoriously apathetic, their work is physically and mentally exhausting, and leaves but little energy for more than grumbling. Those who object to too long hours of work for nurses, and the sweating of their labour by hospital managers, have the remedy in their own hands. Let such institutions be placed under public inspection, and their rules in relation to nurses be printed. The just and the unjust (and there are few philanthropists who hesitate in the name of charity to squeeze women workers) can be compared. Let the just manager be financially supported, and the unjust publicly exposed. The charitable public are primarily to blame for knowing nothing about hospital and nursing administration.

We learn from the *Nursing Journal of India* that Mrs. Barr (née Aukett) has been unanimously elected Business Manager of the Journal in the place of the late Miss J. W. Thorpe. Mrs. Barr was trained at the London Hospital, where she remained as Staff Nurse for a year. In 1899 she volunteered for plague duty in India, and spent three years in Poona and Bombay, during which time she nursed in two severe epidemics of cholera and small-pox. In 1902 she married Dr. Barr, an American dentist practising in Bombay, and has continued to show great interest in Indian nursing.

#### REGISTRATION AND THE ELECTION.

Now that there is an immediate prospect of a General Election we hope that registrationists will make a point of writing to candidates of all parties for Parliamentary honours, asking them whether, if elected, they will support the Nurses' Registration Bill. Nurses should also without fail urge all their male relations and friends to write to their local candidates, asking their support for the Bill, bearing in mind always that male electors can bring effective pressure to bear on candidates which women without votes are unable to exercise.

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