

## THE IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION. THE NURSES' HOMAGE TO DICKENS.

The monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Irish Nurses' Association took place on Saturday, 3rd inst., at 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

The revision of the Rules was under consideration, and several amendments were passed on trial.

A letter was reported from the President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, inviting the Association to nominate one of the four Official Delegates to represent the Council at the Triennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses, to meet at Cologne on August 5th next.

Mrs. Kildare Treacy, a past President of the Irish Nurses' Association, was invited to represent it, and consented to do so. Mrs. Treacy is fully acquainted with International Council Business, as she has attended meetings in both Paris and London, and, as a good linguist, is admirably fitted in every way for the important office.

The remaining three Delegates will be nominated at the meeting of the National Council to be held in London on the 15th inst.

### SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS.

Dr. J. Marshall Day gave a lecture to the members on Tuesday evening, 6th February, the subject being "Symptoms and Signs." Dr. Day took several symptoms which are common to many diseases, such as headache, temperature, diarrhoea, cough, &c., and in enumerating the different kinds of each symptom showed how it became the sign of a particular disease. He impressed on the nurses the necessity of carefully watching and noting the symptoms in a patient, and of giving intelligent reports. The lecture was listened to with great interest, and the members carried away many useful hints. Miss Roberts presided, and a hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mrs. Rice and seconded by Miss Shuley, was given to Dr. Day at the close of the proceedings.

### NURSING HANDICRAFTS EXHIBIT.

We wish to draw the attention of those nurses who have written wishing to compete for Prizes in the Nursing Handicrafts Section at the Exhibition in the Horticultural Hall, S.W., to be held in April, to the rule that Prizes will only be awarded for *Complete Sections*, and not for single items. The Consolation £1 is. Prizes are open to single specimens of Handiwork (see page ii. of our cover). All communications to be addressed to the Editor at 20, Upper Wimpole Street.

### SAIREY GAMP AT HOME.

Hearty congratulations to Miss Cutler upon the great success of the Dickens Party organised by her at the Doré Galleries on the evening of Feb. 7th. Everyone present agreed that it was a most cheery and picturesque gathering. Long before the hour at which Sairey Gamp and Betsey Prig had intimated their pleasure to receive the guests they began to arrive, and great was the amusement and admiration expressed as each character appeared. The make-up and dresses were simply wonderful, and many friends were almost unrecognisable in their marvellous disguises.

The hostess Sairey Gamp, inimitably portrayed both in costume and character by Miss Ellen Birch, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, played her part with great humour, and her faithful crony, Betsey Prig, Miss Hunter, was equally personable; the former rosy and round, the latter lank and lugubrious.

Miss Beatrice Cutler, perfect as Madame Mantalini, and to whom the success of the evening was due, circulated genially around, dressed in a full, flounced, fringed, striped fawn silk gown, worn over a graceful crinoline, with a black and gold turban surmounted by two most frisky white feathers, added to which her glittering old cut steel ornaments, long earrings, necklet, hair comb and bag gave a most realistic touch to her whole costume. So full of *esprit* and *bon ton* was Madame Mantalini that we must presume we met her in the days of comparative prosperity, when head of the celebrated millinery establishment, and before—poor dear—her persuasive husband had spent all her money and reduced her to turning a mangle!

At 8.30 the reception began, and immensely amusing it was to watch. Had it not been for the uniform of the modern nurse, we might have been taking part in a "rout" during the Regency.

Sairey and Betsey welcomed their guests with great urbanity, and with the shady characters they were evidently on terms of intimacy. For instance, the Artful Dodger took part in the reception, and, played by Mr. Lukis, was at his old pranks before one realised his vicinity. Sairey's snuff-box, the first prize incautiously left upon the table and other unconsidered trifles found their way into the portentous pockets of his ragged coat, and much ado there was to prevent persons of unblemished antecedents from calling in the "watch" and handing him over to the not too tender mercies of the law.

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