

Secretary, has issued an encouraging report for the past year. No one has withdrawn, and the subscriptions of new friends have rather more than compensated for the sum lost by the death of old supporters.

£575 has been received towards the King Edward VII. Memorial Annuity, and the Council has bought sufficient stock to found the annuity, and with an addition from the general fund to give a grant of 7s. a week to an ex-army nurse who was disabled in the South African campaign, and whose Army pension was too small to maintain her. She will now have 13s. a week from the combined grants.

There are now four memorial annuities—the Duke of Albany, the Lady Bloomfield, the Prince Christian Victor, and the King Edward VII., but all are at present insufficiently endowed. The Council are most anxious to raise each of these to £26 a year, and ask their friends to persevere in securing special donations for that purpose. Twenty annuities are now in operation, and the Council have aimed at raising the grants in amount before adding to their number. On the other hand, the Council have before them the verified details of more than 30 cases of disabled nurses in urgent need. So the help of all the friends of the Fund is still badly needed.

The Leeds Trained Nurses' Institution, 21, Hyde Terrace, continues to do increasingly useful work. Indeed, many calls during the year have had to be refused, it being found impossible to meet the demand, a fact which speaks well for the efficiency of the staff and for the appreciation in which the nurses are held. Nurses now in the home number eighty-two, and nineteen probationers are in training in hospitals. The cases attended were 3,859, and visits paid 87,049.

We are sorry to note that there is difficulty in procuring the most suitable type of nurse for private service in India, with Lady Minto's Association. But we fear the highly educated class of woman is training in less and less numbers for our profession. We can hardly wonder at this depreciation, as the opposition of hospital committees in London to just educational conditions in the schools, and their most ungenerous fight, led by the London Hospital, to prevent the organization of the nursing profession founded on legal status, is doing inestimable harm to nursing far and wide in all its branches.

The Nurses' Social Union is to hold an exhibition and show its unique collection of health

exhibits in Bristol in May. The Union has already done good practical work in London, Dublin and Leamington by demonstrating to the public matters tending to good health.

At a recent meeting of the Worcester City Council, at which the Mayor, Alderman E. Thomas presided, the Health Committee reported with regret that irregularities had been found to exist in connection with the management of the Newtown Infectious Diseases Hospital, and especially in connection with the supply of meat. It appears that it has been the practice to supply a more expensive description of meat than that contracted for, but to charge the contract price for it, the difference in cost being met by noting on the invoices a greater weight of meat than the quantity actually supplied.

The explanation given by the Matron was that the meat contracted for was not the best English meat, and that the nurses, who had to do very disagreeable work, did not eat the food if it was not of the best. She also admitted that she had made an arrangement with the butcher to supply lamb, to describe it as "meat," and to increase the weight to cover the difference in price. This the butcher alleged was a common practice.

The Committee recommended that the Matron and the cook should be asked to resign, and this was carried by the Council, which also directed that the name of the contractor who supplied the meat should be struck off the list of persons allowed to tender.

The Council could do no less, but they also have obligations. The duty of every Committee is to provide meat of nutritious quality, especially in hospitals, where the special work is apt to create a capricious appetite. The health of the nursing staff depends upon it, and it is hopeless to contract for foreign meat and to expect a butcher to supply material worth eating. We do not wish to support the Matron in her methods of circumventing the contract, but we do sympathize with her in desiring that the meat supply should be wholesome and nourishing. We congratulate the Worcester City Council on deciding to accept no tender for the present half-year, but to authorize the Matron to purchase for patients and staff the best meat at fair prices.

The Guardians of the Bethnal Green Union have applied to the Local Government Board for leave to appoint ten additional probationers, in order that the members of their nursing staff

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)