

same time, so that these most important measures will come into effect at the same time, I presume, as the first issue of the "Quarterly Journal," and the appearance of the first Register of Trained Nurses. At the very commencement of the Association it was stated that Registration was to be carried through first of all, and then one benevolent scheme after another would be organised. And remarkably well has the programme been carried out.

By the bye-laws it was specially arranged that the first Executive Committee was to hold office for three years, and that thereafter one-third of the elected Members were to retire annually in rotation. It was evidently expected, therefore, that three years would be necessary to get the Association into working order. Not only has that been done, but Registration has been organised, and started successfully. I hear that the first Register is now in the press, and that it contains many hundred names of well-trained Nurses. Now the standard of membership and the subscription have been materially raised, for the fighting is practically over. Registration is an accomplished fact, and Members will gain in future very solid advantages—the "Quarterly Journal," the *Conversazione*, the Annual Meeting, the Benevolent Fund, the Pension Fund (which is so in fact, as well as in name), the Sessional Meetings, the Reading-room, and others almost within their reach. I hear that the Convalescent Home and Holiday House will be opened early next year, and then there will only be one more scheme to carry out—the establishment of the Central Home. And with such a record as the above of three years' work, and with three thousand Members enrolled in this short time, who can foretell what the next three years will not bring forth in strengthening the Association, and extending its usefulness and influence?

THE Rules for the Funds passed by the General Council are as follows:—

PENSION FUND.

I. The first two pensions shall be called "The Princess Helena Pensions for Nurses."

II. A donor of £1,200 shall be entitled to name a pension of £50 per annum, which the Association will bind itself to give thereafter in perpetuity, and the donor shall during his or her lifetime be entitled to nominate the recipient of the pension, whenever it may fall vacant.

III. A donor of £500 shall be entitled to name a pension of £20 per annum, with the same privileges as the foregoing.

IV. Members of the Association of not less than three years' standing, who are of the age of fifty or upwards, and disabled from work, and whose total income does not exceed £40 per annum, shall be eligible for pensions. But these conditions may be waived at the discretion of the Executive Committee in the case of Nurses for whose especial benefit a pension is founded.

V. The grant of all pensions shall be renewable every year, and all pensioners shall in the month of December of each year make a written and attested application for the renewal of their pensions for the following year. It being understood that except under special circumstances pensions once given will be renewed annually.

VI. Should a pensioner marry, or should her income from other sources become raised to £60 a year, no further payments will be made to her.

VII. All pensions shall be paid by cheque on the usual quarter days.

VIII. Applications for pensions must be made on forms provided for that purpose, and must in the first instance be approved of, as suitable, by the Benevolent Schemes' Committee.

IX. When a vacancy occurs in a pensionership, the Benevolent Schemes Committee shall carefully consider the applications then before it, and shall recommend the two cases which it considers most suitable for election.

X. Three weeks before a meeting of the General Council, the Executive Committee shall cause to be sent to each Member of the Council a ballot paper, containing the names and circumstances of the candidates thus recommended for election, and at the meeting of the Council all the papers which have been either returned by post to the hon. secretaries, or delivered in person to the chairman at the meeting, shall be examined by scrutineers appointed by the Chairman, and the candidate who obtains the larger number of votes shall be duly elected. Should the votes for two candidates be equal, the Chairman shall have the right to give a second or casting vote. Canvassing any member of the Council will be held to disqualify a candidate.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

I. Members of the Association of not less than two years' standing shall be eligible to receive a pecuniary grant—

(a) If temporarily disabled by sickness from following their calling.

(b) If in need of a prolonged rest after an illness or injury due to their work.

(c) If deprived by accident, such as fire, shipwreck, &c., of their clothing or instruments.

(d) If in temporary need from circumstances beyond their control.

II. Applications for grants must be made to the Benevolent Schemes' Committee, on forms to be obtained by sending a stamped and addressed envelope to the Secretary.

III. Applications for assistance will be treated as strictly confidential, and the names of those receiving help will not be published.

IV. The amount of the grant will in each case be at the entire discretion of the Committee, but can in no case exceed £10.

V. Applicants must be prepared to furnish the fullest particulars as to their circumstances, and these must be guaranteed by some reliable referee.

YET another example of the wide-spread feeling in the public mind respecting the London Hospital scandals is shown in the following extract from the *Christian World*:—"THE NURSES' BITTER CRY.—If Tom Hood had lived in these days, he would doubtless have found inspiration for a 'Song of the Ward,' in the recital of the round of grinding toil and misery endured by delicate young ladies who take to 'Nursing' as a profession, either because they conceive themselves to have a special call to that vocation, or because of the respectability attaching to it.

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