

in quantity, but infinitely better in quality than its most optimistic supporters could have hoped for. We earnestly congratulate the Association not only on its great work, but upon the invaluable assistance which its chief enemy has once more given it. This year has been spent in the weighty work of organisation and elucidation of Registration; next year the publication of the Register will be the outward and visible sign of its success.

In April the Association took a new departure and decided to commence a Pension Fund and a Benevolent Scheme. It was found, we are informed, that great care would be necessary in the organisation of both these matters, and several months have been consumed in overcoming certain legal and other difficulties. We are glad, however, to learn that every detail has now been arranged, and that once more the coming year will see the first-fruits of this year's work. The Association held its second Annual Meeting in Birmingham, and it was made memorable by two coincidences. The British Medical Association, which was, during the same week, holding its Annual Meeting in the same town, had held its second gathering also in Birmingham, and had thenceforward triumphed over all its initial difficulties. The Association evidently has the prime faculty of believing in itself, because the Annual Meeting altered the Bye-Laws and doubled the subscription hitherto in force, for all future Members. Nevertheless it is rumoured that its numbers continue to increase, and this advance both in numbers and influence it may be confidently predicted will every year proportionately extend. Its balance-sheet shows that it has an income larger than its expenditure, and that it already has invested no inconsiderable amount as a reserve fund. It has gallantly met and successfully surmounted its first and greatest difficulties and has gained strength, confidence in itself, and respect from others in the contest. Its harvest in 1891 promises to be great, memorable, and eminently deserved. We cordially wish it a happy and prosperous New Year.

Closely connected with the Association is the scheme for a Convalescent and Holiday Fund for Nurses. This was initiated by a well-known member, in the summer, and at once received wide and most influential support; while it is almost needless to add that it was abused and opposed by the noisy but innocuous and anti-Association clique. It quietly succeeded, however, and we are informed that the freehold of a splendid mansion in Brighton has been bought, is now being redecorated and adapted for the purpose in view, and will be opened early in the ensuing spring. Here Nurses will be able to go

for a few days' or weeks' change or rest at a much smaller cost than even the humblest lodgings would entail. We doubt not that the privilege will be greatly prized and sought after, and earnestly wish the influential Committee of the Fund all success in its good work during the coming year.

In July occurred the memorable investigation into the Nursing Department of the London Hospital, by the Select Committee of the House of Lords, which has aroused such wide-spread interest, and which must, of necessity, have such far-reaching results. Our readers know our views on the matter, and we shall, in due course, still further emphasize them. The chief importance of the matter is not its consequences to one or two individuals, absolutely obscure and unimportant apart from their official positions, but its effects on the education and work of Nurses throughout the kingdom. It is common knowledge what frantic efforts have been made to stifle all discussion, and burke all inquiry into the London Hospital scandals—all unavailingly, as the next few weeks will show. We need not, therefore, devote further space to the matter now, beyond wishing the East End Charity, from the ground of our hearts, a speedy deliverance in the new year.

Speaking generally, it may be truthfully said that the advance of Nursing knowledge has been every whit as great during the past twelve months as during any similar preceding period. Not only in this country, but all over the world, especially perhaps in New Zealand and in South Africa, improvements in the Nursing departments of Hospitals and in the training of Nurses have been largely made. Indeed, our information leads us to believe that public opinion in South Africa, educated by Sister HENRIETTA both by practice and precept at the Kimberley Hospital, is more advanced upon the subject of Registration than it is even in England. And nothing would surprise us less than for one of our Colonial Parliaments to lead the way for the mother country in the matter of legislation for the Nursing calling. But it is, we believe, everywhere recognised that the vocation is passing through a transition state from the old to the new, and that the example of the British Nurses' Association should be followed abroad as well as at home, quietly and steadfastly laying the foundations upon which future progress may safely be built; doing—according to English custom—as much as possible by private effort, and only calling upon the State for help when the final crown and seal is needed to complete the work. So the year passes away with much progress made, and with much good seed sowed, the full fruits of which Time only

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