

human" "Let the men find the money they call the tune" and so on—and many who in the past gave fine service to the public—service beyond rubies—have retired and will work no more.

Then we find Lady Mackinnon, acting president and chairman of the City of London branch of the British Red Cross Society in her interesting lecture at the Imperial Services Exhibition, Earl's Court, last week, laying special stress on the necessity for local support.

"To support a branch such as that belonging to the City of London, for instance," she said, "only £400 a year is required for actual working expenses. We do not want a Government grant for this, what we require are subscriptions no matter how small. It is surely not too much to ask citizens of London to subscribe say a shilling or sixpence annually for so worthy a cause as that of the British Red Cross Association.

"We want the working girl and the working man to join our ranks, but we do not of necessity require a majority of men. The proportion that we want in each branch of our service is one-third men to two-thirds women—the women to do all the nursing and the detail work, and the men to do the actual physical labour that is necessitated, for instance, lifting and carrying the wounded or sick, and transferring them from trains or ambulances to Hospitals or nursing tents.

"The mobilisation of practical nurses, is as great a necessity as the mobilisation of an army.

"What we want to arrive at is public recognition and public support. Without the public, no such big movement as ours can possibly succeed."

All this is very wise and true. Lady Mackinnon is an excellent example of the value of women's enthusiasm and love of country. She has passed four examinations to fit herself for her responsible position—and yet the Government has decreed that Lady Mackinnon is not "a person" and is not fit for the responsibility of citizenship—! Tommy in his hour of need will have another tale to tell!

Charity does not appear to be the distinguishing characteristic of the people of Derby to judge from the balance sheet of the Nursing and Sanitary Association. We are not surprised the niggardly support given to the Association was commented upon at the 48th annual meeting.

The subscription list within the borough is less than £100, and the governors, in their

report, suggested that the services of the district nurses—of whom there are seven fully trained, in addition to several pupils—deserved more liberal recognition.

The income for the past year totalled £7,508, the earnings from private nursing amounting to £4,391, the other services of nurses yielding £1,239, and the patients paying £1,086. Salaries and wages for private nursing absorbed £2,617, and for the Nightingale and district nursing £1,270. The credit balance on the year's working was £532, out of which a bonus of £500 had again been granted to the nurses.

This large income had been made by the nurses in the following manner. Nurses were supplied to 614 private cases and 73 times to hospitals, while the district staff paid 38,678 visits in the borough and 30,034 in the outlying districts. The cases attended included 1,865 medical, 1,015 surgical, 24 massage, and 521 maternity. To the general wards of the Nightingale Home 260 maternity cases and to the private wards 134 patients were admitted. Five nurses and six pupils passed the examination of the Central Midwives Board.

The Mayor (Ald. W. G. Wilkins), who presided over the meeting, expressed the hope that more adequate support would be forthcoming from the inhabitants of the town. It was calculated that the cost of the district nursing was £500 per annum, as against which under £100 was received in subscriptions, an entirely disproportionate sum. From personal observation, his Worship bore testimony to the kindness, loyalty, and devotion of the nurses. They carried with them not only the emblems, but the very spirit of Christian charity, and ministered to the minds as well as the bodies of those whom they visited.

The long and the short of it is, that the nurses are paying for the district nursing of the poor in Derby—a very discreditable condition of affairs which we commend to the attention of His Grace of Devonshire, who is the President.

Influenza has been attacking the population in far St. Kilda in the Hebrides, where there are no resident trained nurses. The Admiralty cruiser *Active* has therefore taken from Oban Dr. Pittman of the Scotch Local Government Board and several nurses—who have landed on the island, with food supplies and other comforts. It was found that of the 76 inhabitants all but six were down with influenza, and there was no one to cook food, or nurse them, or milk the cows. The Church was transformed into a temporary hospital, and it is hoped the epidemic will soon be at an end.

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