

I am glad that you have re-elected the Hon. Officers. We could not financially be in better hands than Miss Cockrell, who watches the subscriptions with a lynx eye and lets no one off. Miss Todd has proved a very able Secretary; and Miss Alsop, our Assist. Secretary, is always so ready to help, not only when it is the question of the Dinner (which, I believe, was originally her suggestion)—but is always to the fore when there is hard work to be done.

Our Committee have been most loyal and energetic in attending meetings.

Miss Todd's report has outlined the doings of the year, but it cannot convey any idea of the mutual help and support gained by the meetings; the spirit of camaraderie which is engendered; and the kindly welcome—not to mention the excellent refreshments—which always await us wherever we go.

As to the work we have accomplished during the past year, I think the Association has justified its existence. We made a great effort—with regard to the Poor Law Institutions' Order—both by deputation and memoranda to the L.G.B., to help the Superintendent Nurses of the country to obtain better conditions. I don't know how far we succeeded, but, at any rate, we had the satisfaction of knowing that we had done our best.

Miss Todd has mentioned our efforts in connection with the Superannuation Act. Experts are watching our interests, and will advise us when any opportunity arises for us profitably to take action.

We have been wishing to consider the subject of the professional instruction and training of Poor Law Nurses. This matter has been discussed in various quarters; many of us would wish that any scheme of the kind that is brought forward should include all nurses and not create water-tight compartments for Poor Law Nurses. We hope to go into the matter seriously next year.

We have at our meetings touched on many interesting questions. Looking back on the year, I feel that we might have done much more; but the future is still ours, and we, as an Association, must try to make the best possible use of it—not only for our own mutual benefit, but for the good of the profession at large.

It is a great pleasure and privilege to have Miss Stansfeld presiding over us. I offer her a very hearty welcome on behalf of the Association.

THE DINNER.

After the close of the meeting a reception was held of the special guests of the Association, who included the Dowager Lady Loch, Miss Stansfeld, Miss Helen Todd, Miss Amy Hughes, Miss Gibson, Miss James, Miss Wilde, and the members and their friends.

Sixty-eight sat down to dinner, at which the President, Miss Barton presided, and she was supported by the following members of the Association:—Miss Cockrell, St. Marylebone; Miss Todd, St. James, Wandsworth; Miss

Alsop, Kensington; Miss Mowatt, Whitechapel; Miss Elma Smith, C.L.S.A., Hendon; Miss Hannaford, Poplar and Stepney S.A.; Miss Hughes, St. George's-in-the-East; Miss Stewart, City of London; Miss Preston, Mile End; Miss Dodds, Bethnal Green; Miss Youlden, Isleworth; Miss Holberton, Paddington; Miss Byles, Lambeth; Miss Bentley, St. Pancras South; Miss Spittal, St. Pancras North; Miss Leigh, C.L.S.A., Cleveland Street; Miss Inglis, Shoreditch; Miss Clark, West Ham; Miss Dowbiggin, Edmonton; Miss Walker, Birkenhead; Miss Bodley, King's Norton; Miss Masters, Leicester; Miss Foyster, Portsmouth; Miss Jeffery, Stockport; Miss Bynne, Shirley Ware; Miss Myles, Brighton; Miss Gittens, Leeds.

An excellent dinner was served, and the animated scene was enlivened by a delightful musical programme, played by Rugman's St. Quintin Trio.

The toasts were proposed from the chair, that of "The King" being most loyally supported.

Miss Helen Todd responded to that of "The Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association," and she alluded to its growing usefulness from small beginnings.

Miss Amy Hughes, in responding to the toast of "The Nursing Profession," spoke with warm appreciation of the work of Poor Law Nurses, and said she had excellent opportunities of judging of it.

Miss James made a very inspiring speech in responding for "The Guests," laying emphasis on the need for high ideals and the great pleasure of comradeship.

Delightful songs were rendered between the Toasts, and the whole function was voted a great success by all present.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Mrs. H. B. Irving regretted their inability to be present as guests of the Association, the former owing to a previous engagement as chairman of Council of the Society of Women Journalists, as she was acting as a hostess at the Annual Dinner of the Society; the latter unfortunately through illness.

The Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association will, we hope, continue to grow in influence, inspired as it is with a desire to improve Poor Law nursing conditions. We wish it every success.

IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday the 25th ult., a most interesting lecture was given at 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, by Mrs. Cran, F.R.H.S. on Nursing in Canada. There was a large attendance of members of the I.N.A., and great interest was aroused by the eloquent account given by the speaker of the conditions under which nurses work among the prairie farms in North West Canada, where space is so vast and population so scattered. Mrs. Cran emphasised the fact that there was great need for the services of fully trained nurses and midwives.

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