

Dublin Nursing Institution had in the past received the unique distinction of being decorated with the Insignia of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Turning to the balance-sheet, Mr. de C. Wheeler said that there was another prosperous year to record, and in view of the heavy additional work undertaken by the existing staff of nurses in the absence of their colleagues on military service, the directors had decided to distribute a bonus of £184 14s. in addition to salary. The directors furthermore decided, owing to the rise in prices generally, to increase all the nurses' salaries by 20 per cent., and to admit probationers for a limited period without entrance fee. During the past year the Trustees of the Pension Fund had awarded the sum of £122 3s. 3d. for the benefit of the nurses. The directors invested £500 in the New War Stock to meet the depreciation in the value of invested securities.

The Matron (Miss Carr) reported that Nurse Livingstone had been given indefinite leave to take up the appointment of Assistant Matron at Bloomfield Private Hospital.

The Chairman then gave a short *résumé* of the present position of the nursing profession in relation to the war, stating that the supply of nurses was by no means exhausted, and that in case of emergency, if the material in Ireland alone were mobilised, many hundreds of trained women would be available. It was a pity that the military regulations precluded the employment of the very valuable material in the form of nurses undergoing training in the large hospitals. At present only nurses of three years' hospital experience were eligible for military service, and the probationers, many of whom were experienced, were not utilised as nurses by the military authorities. The present system of substituting, in military hospitals, volunteers with little or no hospital training for professional probationers was a mistake. The Local Government Board of Ireland had given great encouragement to the employment of probationers undergoing training, by agreeing to count duty in military hospitals towards the completion of the curriculum in order to qualify later for Local Government Board appointments.

We have much sympathy with this point of view, but the fact remains that so many Sisters and trained nurses have been requisitioned for war service from our training schools that Matrons are of opinion that the patients would suffer if experienced probationers were requisitioned also.

We think trained nurses in South Africa are exceedingly fortunate in having the active support of Dr. J. Tremble, a medical man who evidently holds very sound views on the Nursing Question, and who has the courage to express them through the *South African Nursing Record*, of which he is editor. It is only about nine months ago that the South African Trained Nurses' Association was founded, and mainly through the publicity and support of the journal it has made very satisfactory progress, especially as war has for much of the time absorbed the energies of the profession. Meetings have been held in East London, Port Elizabeth, Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Salisbury, and Maitland, and several Branches have been formed, and the Association will, we hope, find itself sufficiently strong to organize a South African unit of selected volunteer nurses to offer its services to the home authorities for military service.

Dr. Tremble suggests that this shall be done, and done quickly; the volunteer nurses must be registered in South Africa, and, as far as possible, those trained in the country are to have preference. They must undertake to sign for a year's service or until the end of hostilities, and to agree to work at the salary fixed by the Joint War Committee of one guinea a week. An appeal for funds is made to enable this salary to be augmented and to pay for personal equipment.

The Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand Governments have most generously financed splendid contingents of nurses for service with the troops, and we have little doubt that the South African Government will give substantial help towards providing a unit of South African nurses just as soon as they are relieved from service with their own fine troops, who are dealing with a little war on their own. Anyway, this war proves how necessary nursing organization is in every country, so that when trained nurses are required for imperial service their Associations are ready to take rightful responsibility.

Miss M. Nutt, R.R.C., Matron of the Alexandra Hospital, Maitland, has been appointed President of the West Province Branch, and Miss M. E. Barber Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. All members of the Association must be registered in one or the other of the Provinces. At a recent meeting at Maitland it was unanimously agreed that the Association should adopt a distinctive Badge.

We are watching the growth of this National Association with very deep interest.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)