

The wards were on view, and were greatly admired; and a number of the patients were men injured in the recent North Sea battle, to attend on whom the staff no doubt felt honoured.

Mr. W. I. de C. Wheeler, F.R.C.S., presided at the thirty-second annual meeting of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, and had the pleasure of congratulating the nursing staff on their courage and good work during the recent rebellion, and of announcing the thoroughly satisfactory financial condition of the institution. Funds out of the earnings of the institution to the amount of £1,000 had been invested in the War Loan, money which in time of peace would have been distributed among the nurses. As another example of war economy in the institution, it might be mentioned that the house expenses had fallen by £60, as compared with last year. A saving under such a heading was most unusual, and was attributed by the auditors, *inter alia*, to the cultivation and growing of vegetables in the small garden at the rear of the house, and to the fact that in her spare time one of the nurses voluntarily undertook the work of the laundry.

Last year the directors, having regard to the onerous duties thrown on the nurses by the absence of their sisters at the war, decided to increase the salaries by 20 per cent. It was gratifying to find that the past year had been sufficiently prosperous to maintain this increase. In addition, the directors had this year voted about £100, to be distributed by way of bonus, in recognition of the ceaseless efforts of the nurses to carry on the work of those who were absent on military duties.

In referring to the College of Nursing, Ltd., the Chairman said that its establishment in London, if it became operative, might affect the institution, as it hoped to obtain statutory powers in connection with the higher education of nurses. The attitude of the Irish nurses with regard to the scheme was, rightly, one of caution. Before co-operating in this enterprise it was obviously essential that the Irish nurses must be assured of adequate representation on the supreme Council. Irish support would not be withheld if the establishment of the new College was to lead rapidly to State Registration, for which Irish nurses had been clamouring for many years. It was to be hoped when the governing body of the new College was finally decided upon it would be found to include a large direct representation from the nurses who had passed through their various training schools and had become "private practitioners." The nurses felt strongly on this point, and unpopularity and failure were likely

to follow the College from its infancy if the governing body was too largely composed of an autocratic ring of hospital matrons. Irish nurses need have no fear lest, if compelled to remain out of the scheme, they might be penalised and handicapped in the manner experienced after the passing of the Act establishing the Central Midwives' Board in England. With that lesson before them it did not seem possible for the new College to obtain statutory powers without Irish co-operation.

The Chairman, in alluding to Miss Carr, the lady manager, said she was largely responsible for the smooth and successful work of the institution during the past year.

Irish nurses have always shown themselves possessed of a keen professional sense, and we learn that they are quite content to await events in connection with the College of Nursing. Nothing but State Registration is of any use, and they know it. Moreover, they want to know *what sort of registration* the College is prepared to promote. A thorough system the Irish nurses would welcome—with a makeshift they will have nothing to do; and with this point of view we are in entire sympathy.

The report by Miss Goodrich in the *Modern Hospital* of the New Orleans Convention, at which 600 nurse delegates were present, makes one's mouth water. It appears to have been simply bristling with ideas. The Bureau of Legislation, under Miss Mary C. Wheeler, of Chicago, presented its revised list of schools of nursing accredited by State boards of nurse examiners, and also the list of registered nurses by States. This list showed the total number of registered nurses in the United States, at the issuance of this pamphlet, to be 70,218. The first four Nurses' Registration Bills were passed in the United States in 1903.

The evening devoted to Red Cross work was a notable one. Miss Delano reported that over 600 nurses were serving on the State and local Red Cross Nursing Committees that had been organized in every section of the United States since affiliation of the American Nurses' Association with the American Red Cross nearly seven years ago, and that the total enrolment of Red Cross nurses (thoroughly trained) is now 6,200.

Let us hope after this war is at an end the British Red Cross Society will put its house in order, in so far as trained nursing is concerned—we have urged it for years. We could equal the splendid record of the American Red Cross without difficulty.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)