

Babb, Baxter, J. C. Bell, Chaplin, S. Gardiner, Leech, McGill, Mucklow, Paul, Ashlin, Thomas, and Young.

The Committee are also glad to report that they have been enabled by the increased annual subscriptions of members to keep open the Howard de Walden Nurses' Club, and that Miss Roberts, R.R.C. (a former Matron of the Co-operation), generously undertook the management for a time, as many difficulties had been experienced during the year owing to the food question and shortness of staff.

Altogether a very satisfactory report.

We could wish this large body of professional workers would take a more active part in furthering the State organization of their profession on a self-governing basis. With very few exceptions, "Co-op." nurses have not been encouraged to do their public duty in this connection.

The Directory of District Nursing, and Streets List for London, issued by the Central Council for District Nursing in London, should prove of much service to those engaged in district nursing work, and to social workers who wish to get into touch with district nurses. It contains the name of practically every street or place in the Administrative County, together with the locality, postal district, city, or borough, and poor law union in which it is situate. A reference number or letter, shows by means of the Index printed inside the back page of the cover the name and address of the district nursing association working in the place. In the case of parishes having trained nurses not attached to any association, the name of the parish is given, with the direction that application should be made to the incumbent. We think it would be convenient if the address of the incumbent were given in each case. A useful feature is the list of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

A list is also included of the Municipal and Poor Law Authorities, and directions as to the means of obtaining the removal of infectious cases to the hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. The cost of the Directory, which may be obtained from Messrs. King & Son, Orchard House, Westminster, S.W. 1, is 2s. 6d.

Wexford Guardians paid a high tribute to Sister Camillus, of the St. John of God Order, on her retirement, after 25 years' service, from the position of Head Nurse in the Union Infirmary, the Chairman, Lady Fitzgerald, remarking that the event was an irreparable loss to the inmates.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"THE EDINBURGH SCHOOL OF SURGERY BEFORE LISTER."*

A book of more than usual interest, which nurses should certainly make a point of reading, is "The Edinburgh School of Surgery before Lister," by Mr. Alexander Miles, Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. The modern nurse is apt to think that nursing was non-existent before the era of Florence Nightingale, and there is a prevalent opinion that there was no surgery worthy of the name before Lister, and yet the forerunners of both prepared the path over which their genius led the medical and nursing professions into their kingdoms. As the author tells us in his preface, "The student of surgery who confines his reading to modern text-books, which of necessity deal only with matters of present-day interest, fails to see the outlines of his subject in their true historical perspective. The existing state of surgery as a science and an art is duly presented to him, but the steps by which it has reached this state he has no means of tracing. . . . Seeing only the perfected results of the surgery of to-day, he fails, on the one hand, to realise the difficulties that had to be overcome by the pioneers of surgery, and, on the other, to grasp the real significance of the revolution effected by the master mind of Joseph Lister."

"The purpose of this brief sketch is to enlist the interest of the student in the history of his subject by tracing the rise and development of a school of surgery from the days when the practice of the surgical art was in the hands of the craft of barber-surgeons, who carried it on largely as a trade, down to the beginning of the Listerian era, when it had attained to the dignity of a learned and scientific profession."

Mr. Miles tells us that "the Edinburgh School of Surgery may be traced back to the year 1505, when the 'surregeanis and barbouris,' who had just been erected into a Corporation, presented to the Town Council a petition which included the request 'that we may have anis in the yeir ane condemnit man after he be deid to make anatomes of, quairthrow we may heif experience, ilk ane to instruct utheris, and we sall do suffrage for the soule.' . . . This petition was made and granted eight years before the Battle of Flodden."

Of the barber-surgeons we read: "If the barber-surgeons contributed little to advance surgery as an art, they rendered an abiding service to the progress of the Edinburgh School by the part they took in cultivating the study of anatomy and preparing the way for the development of the great anatomical school out of which the Faculty of Medicine in the University subsequently arose."

From the earliest days of the Surgical School the sound principle had been laid down "that every man ought to know the nature and substance

* Messrs. A. & C. Black, Ltd., 4, 5 and 6, Soho Square, London, W. 1. 5s.

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