

at half-yearly or annual business meetings. Travelling expenses from London have cost £88 3s. 9d.; from Scotland £72 3s. 6d.; and from Ireland £107 12s. 10d. We consider this item should be materially decreased in the future.

THE SURPLUS OF NURSES' FEES.

The fact that the Nurses' Registration Fees have brought in £5,684 10s. and that the cost of carrying on the College in the United Kingdom has amounted to £3,033 12s. 11d. leaves a surplus of £2,650 17s. 1d., so that it is quite inexcusable to have held them up in *forma pauperis*. The nurses fees have paid all expenses and provided a handsome surplus, and we hope they will realize it. If this women's College had been managed by women instead of men the surplus would no doubt have been greater.

THE IRISH FUND FOR A NATION'S TRIBUTE TO NURSES.

The Marchioness of Waterford presided at a meeting, held in the Great Hall, Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin, on Tuesday, May 21st, to inaugurate a special Irish Fund as a thank offering to Irish nurses for their work during the war.

Lady Waterford said that the meeting had been convened for the purpose of inaugurating the Nation's Fund for Nurses in Ireland. The scheme had originated with Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, who felt that Ireland would wish to share in the movement.

The original objects of the collection were to endow the College of Nursing and to provide a tribute for the individual nurses. In Ireland, however, they were advised to concentrate their efforts on a collection for the Tribute Fund, which would be a perpetual testimony to the magnificent work of the nurses in the military services, and also in safeguarding the health of the nation. The Fund would be for certificated nurses, and the money collected in Ireland would be ear-marked for Irish nurses. It was being raised now, and not at the end of the war, as by that time it was feared taxation must weigh heavily on the nation; and, with the necessity for reconstruction, money might not be so readily forthcoming as at the present moment.

Mr. Henry McLaughlin, Hon. Organiser of the movement, said that in view of what the country had already done to relieve the sufferers by the war, it was with considerable diffidence that he accepted the invitation of Sir Arthur Stanley to organise the campaign. He had seen the work of the nurses in France, and been greatly struck by it. He believed there was not a man or woman in Ireland who would not feel ashamed if those devoted women returned unwelcomed and uncared for to the land of their birth. It might be said the nurses did not want charity. He thought they did if it

was taken in its true sense, the charity of love, affection, friendship and gratitude, not the charity which was humiliating. It was not a sin to be poor.* Many of the nurses who had gone to France, and stood by the fighting men would come back broken in health, and it behoved their countrymen at home to see that they were not left in discomfort.

With regard to the College of Nursing, and what it might attempt, he did not know, and until this Fund was raised he did not want to know.

He suggested that the Fund should be worked by counties, and that the wife of His Majesty's Lieutenant in each county should be asked to preside over the County Committee. Under that there would be local, district, and urban committees with a president and secretary for each. Each local committee would send its collection to the county treasurer, who would forward it to the Executive Committee in Dublin. Sir Arthur Stanley was asking for £60,000. On behalf of the ladies of Ireland he had undertaken to let Sir Arthur have one-sixth of that sum. The Fund that was to be raised in Ireland would be ear-marked for Irish Nurses. Miss Macnie and Miss McDonnell had consented to undertake the duties of Hon. Secretaries to the Central Fund, and Lady Arnott, if invited, would act as Chairman of the Executive Committee to be formed. It was proposed that the Executive Committee they would that day elect be composed of the wives of His Majesty's Lieutenants of Counties with power to co-opt ladies from the several districts in each county. Later another public meeting would be held when Sir Arthur Stanley would explain the need for the Fund, and the manner in which it was proposed to be used.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Justice Ross then proposed:—

"That the Irish Fund for a Nation's Tribute to Nurses is worthy of support, and that the scheme of organization, as outlined, be adopted."

The speaker said that he had much pleasure in supporting the fund, and his coming meant that the great organization of the Order of St. John would be enlisted in support of the movement. The nation could never repay the debt it owed to trained nurses. People did not really understand what they had to do when they went out to the battle zone. In many cases they were working in close proximity to the firing-line, often under shell-fire by day, and bombing at night, yet they never quailed, even if asked to go up to the very firing-line which they sometimes had to do when there was a German advance, and a temporary hospital was being abandoned.

What was proposed to be done? There was a proposition which was not before the Irish people, about a College to be established in London, but they in Ireland were taking up another position which they thought would be more acceptable, and more capable of gaining support, and that was to

* No. But it is a sin for employers to keep nurses so poor that they are unable to provide for sickness and old age.—Ed.

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