

and physical exhaustion, they proposed that proper provision should be made for them. It was proposed to raise a fund of £10,000 all over Ireland, to be managed in Ireland, and already committees had been organised. He commended the Tribute Scheme to the generosity of the Irish people.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, M.P., said that this was the moment to make the appeal, when the hearts of the great public were stirred to their innermost depths by the stories of the heroism of the Red Cross Nurses, and there could not be a better moment to appeal to the pockets of the people.

The two objects they had in view were the co-ordination of the nursing profession and the helping of those who had fallen by the way. The first object would be looked after by the College of Nursing, and he need not go into that, because it had nothing to do with the subject they were there to discuss, which had been rightly called the Tribute Fund. It was not charity—there was nothing degrading to the nurse in accepting the gratitude of a whole nation. The Irish were not only a generous, but a warm-hearted, race, and he was, therefore, certain they would get what they were asking for, and probably a great deal more. He was glad to find also, that they were a very hard-headed race, and if they gave money they liked to see how that money was going to be spent, and would like to have the spending of it themselves. If they wanted to do a good thing well, especially in the spending of money, they should do it themselves, and he was bound to say that the request from the Executive Committee of the Irish Fund to the effect that the money raised in Ireland should be spent through the Irish Committee upon Irish nurses seemed eminently a sensible one. If the Irish Committee could take on themselves the responsibility of saying that they would provide for all Irish nurses, then he could assure them of their most deep and sincere gratitude. At the same time he asked them to allow the headquarters in London, who were raising money for the whole of the British Empire, to look upon the money raised in Ireland as part of the Nation's Fund, and as the contribution from Ireland to the nurses of the whole British Empire, and as he did not see the immediate connection between the two he asked them to allow him (the speaker) as their humble servant to be the connecting link, for the time being, at all events. He would go back to London and tell them that whatever Ireland wished to do would be well done, and he was perfectly confident they would be perfectly satisfied with that assurance.

Mr. Henry McLaughlin, the Hon. Organiser, then outlined the Irish scheme, which was to take Ireland by counties, and ask the wife of His Majesty's Lieutenant of each county to become County President of the Fund and a Vice-President, under Lady Waterford's Presidency. County and District Committees would be

formed. Mr. McLaughlin read the list of those who had accepted office—the following to form the Executive Committee:—Chairman, Lady Arnott, D.B.E.; the Hon. Mrs. Barry, the Hon. Mrs. de Courcy Wheeler, Lady Chance, Mrs. Gaisford St. Lawrence, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Mulhall, Dr. Ella Webb, Miss Boland, Miss Huxley and Miss Reed.

Mr. Justice Ross proposed:—

That this meeting appreciates the splendid work of the nursing profession, and pledges itself to do everything in its power to assist Sir Arthur Stanley to raise an Irish Tribute and Thank-offering to our Irish nurses.

Mr W. M. Murphy, in seconding the resolution, commended the Tribute to the consideration of the public.

Votes of thanks to the speakers were passed with acclamation.

We learn that it has been conveyed to promoters of the Nation's Fund in London that the Irish Tribute cannot be devoted in part to the support of the College of Nursing Limited. That the money raised in Ireland must be in fact, as well as in name, an Irish Tribute to Irish Nurses—administered and expended by an Irish Committee, and it is upon this distinct understanding that certain ladies including Miss Huxley have accepted Lady Arnott's invitation to become members of the Executive Committee.

Irish doctors and nurses realise that they have the nucleus of an Irish College of Nursing—in the Irish Nursing Board—when the time comes for its development, and they will never consent to be absorbed into an English College governed from London.

#### MEDICAL OPINION IN IRELAND.

The *Medical Press and Circular*, which circulates widely in Ireland, is not enthusiastic about the "Nation's Tribute to Nurses." It remarks:—"We would like to ask whether the nurses of Ireland really relish the nauseating appeals that are being made ostensibly on their behalf. We would like to hear their voice. We miss the names of very responsible Irish nurses among those present at the preliminary meeting. As far as our inquiries among nurses have gone, nurses only require what every self respecting working man or woman requires—decent conditions of employment and adequate remuneration. The present appeal proceeds on the admission that there is not adequate remuneration. Mr. Justice Ross, speaking at the preliminary meeting, remarked, 'Nurses did not enter the profession for the purpose of making money; it was impossible for a trained nurse to make enough to form a fund on which she might live in her old age.' As a matter of fact, nurses enter the profession to make a living; and if the scandalous sweating, of which Mr. Justice Ross speaks so complacently, be a fact, the disgrace will not be lessened by the building of an almshouse."

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