

Fenwick treats these commercial rags with the contempt they deserve, and wastes no honest cash upon them. She is glad to know that thousands of professional nurses do likewise. Those who subsidise such publications are devoid of all professional loyalty, and sooner or later will suffer for their folly as the result of the unprofessional spirit encouraged by them.

We are sure of the right professional note in *Kai-Tiaki*, the Journal of the Nurses of New Zealand, and we thank the editor for her remarks on "The Position of Nurses in England," in which she sympathises with us in our strong antipathy to the widespread advertising of the "Nation's Fund for Nurses" and the use made of our profession for advertising purposes. She describes the "Victory Ball" as the "last straw," and adds: "Let us hope that the nurses may succeed in their protest against such desecration. In the defeat of Major Chapple in the recent elections the nurses have lost an ardent champion in their fight for State Registration, the gaining of which would much improve their position." We are glad to note *Kai-Tiaki* keeps its readers informed of the truth in the present controversy in English nursing affairs.

The Committee of the East London Nursing Society, which holds its annual meeting at the Chapter House, St. Paul's, on Friday May 23rd, at 3 p.m., state, in their report, that the work of the year has been peculiarly difficult financially. The heavy increase of expenditure has compelled a reduction of staff very unwillingly made. They therefore dispensed with the services of four nurses and arranged that in four districts the living-out plan for the nurses should be abandoned, residence in a Home being at once more economical and more efficient. That this economy was justified the financial position demonstrates.

The Committee, however, regard the financial outlook as most serious. They point out that not only has the price of food, coal, gas, and domestic upkeep generally increased greatly, but the wages and war bonuses of the staff have been necessarily and justly raised, so that the cost of a nurse compared with pre-war conditions has nearly been doubled. The one hope of the Committee is that the new interest awakened in the large East End firms by the Jubilee Appeal may lead to increased local support.

The Asylum Workers' Association held their annual general meeting on Wednesday, May

21st, at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, London. W. The meeting was saddened by the fact that since the notices of the meeting had gone out with the announcement that the chair would be taken by the President, Sir John Jardine, he had passed away. Despite the fact that he had retired from the service of the State at the dissolution of the late Parliament, and that his health had been failing, the report stated he showed his still strong and active interest in the welfare of Asylum workers, by having kindly consented to continue in the office of president.

Membership of the Association has increased from 2,171 at the end of 1917 to 2,211 at the end of 1918, consisting of 336 Life Members, 201 Associate Members, and 1,674 Ordinary Members.

Like every other journal the cost of production and distribution of *The Asylum News* has materially increased, being £99 3s. 11d. as compared with £72 18s. 9d. in 1917.

It is stated that the Parliamentary Subcommittee of the Association will continue to closely watch the course of events with regard to the Bills for the State Registration of Nurses, to ensure that "the claims of mental Nurses receive full recognition." It seems a pity that as well as "watching" in the interests of its own members the Committee does not pursue an active policy in regard to this great public reform.

The Association is interesting itself in the question of reciprocity in training between general and mental hospitals, and in obtaining a concession of a year from general hospitals for those who hold the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association. At present enquiries prove that this concession is not granted in any General Hospital in England or Scotland.

The Central Executive Committee grieve to report the heavy toll taken by the war, of Asylum Workers; in some instances as many as ten per cent. of the members of staffs of Asylums with the Forces have fallen in action or died on active service. They also state that they cannot speak too highly of the efficiency and the devotion to duty which on all hands have been displayed by those on whom has fallen the burden of carrying on the work at home during the war. They regard this as evidence of the wide existence of that nursing spirit which it has ever been the endeavour of the Association to foster and encourage.

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