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EDITORIAL.

**THE FINANCES OF THE COLLEGE OF
NURSING, LTD.**

The financial position of the College of Nursing, Ltd., must be of great importance to its members, and in the near future will also become a matter of considerable professional and public interest. We have now before us the details of its receipts and expenditure for the first three years of its existence—that is to say, up to March 31st, 1919—and a summary of those accounts affords very significant information. Taking the Receipts first, we find that up to March 31st, 1917, 2,553 nurses had been registered, and in the next year 5,414, and last year 5,047. Of the total number, 11,203 were from England and Wales, 1,289 from Scotland, and 522 from Ireland, or 13,014 in all. The marked falling off in last year's registrations confirms the statements we have received from various quarters, to the effect that the desperate efforts made by hospital matrons to coerce their nurses into joining the College have nearly emptied their nets. These 13,014 nurses have paid the College the total sum of £13,664 14s., in return for which the matrons and doctors, acting as directors and officials, have pledged themselves that Parliament shall give to those 13,000 nurses admission to a State Register "automatically and without further fee." If the Houses of Lords and Commons have the extreme hardihood to refuse to give these nurses such preferential treatment over the 50,000 or so other nurses in the United Kingdom, the ladies and gentlemen in question have doubtless contemplated what the consequences might be to the College of Nursing. But, doubtless also, they are well assured that Parliament is compelled to obey their orders as to the form an Act of Parliament shall take.

Still, as a matter of curiosity, one may be allowed to ask what has become of those 13,000 guineas; and it may perhaps surprise some supporters of the College to learn that some

£10,000 of that amount has already been spent in carrying on the Company.

Next, we find that some £37,500 have been received in charitable donations—no less than £32,500 being from the so-called Nation's Fund for Nurses, which the generous British public was asked to subscribe, and believed that it was subscribing, for the benefit of nurses. Evidently, it has been wisely stipulated that these donations must be invested. The interest received from those investments has amounted to £937, or, with the above capital sum, to £38,436 3s. 6d. altogether. From the Balance Sheet it appears that the cost of the investments has been £40,421. In other words, beyond those donations and dividends, only £2,000 out of the £13,664 paid by nurses for their registration was safely invested on March 31st. The balance between the £10,000—which, as we have said, is already spent—and the two last figures is represented by cash at the bank and furniture at the offices. The other side of the accounts—that is to say, the Expenditure—is equally interesting. The salaries paid have risen from £487 in the first year to £1,206 last year; the cost of printing and stationery from £430 to £884; the postages from £277 to £444. During the past year advertising has cost no less than £204 10s. 9d., and travelling expenses, including those to London by members of the two Branches, amount to £290; the total cost of carrying on this so-called College last year having been over £4,300. It registered 5,000 nurses, but of any ordinary collegiate work there is not the slightest evidence in its accounts. It will cause no surprise to learn that while the College has received some £1,350 from Scottish nurses, and some £550 from Irish nurses, it has had to pay its Scottish Branch £928, and its Irish Branch £800, to cover their expenditure to date—an excellent bargain for Scottish and Irish Nurses, at the expense of their English colleagues. There are several other interesting facts revealed by a careful dissection of the three years' accounts of the College, to which we may refer on a

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