

The difficulties have proved to be many and the problems complex, but co-ordinated effort can accomplish much. When we were asked to start a Babies' Hospital in London, said Miss Patrick, we were told to be prepared for special difficulties such as we had not experienced in New Zealand. We were told we might overcome to a great extent the problems of infant feeding but we would have special difficulty with respiratory diseases, and that we should not, owing to climatic conditions, be able to let the babies have fresh air all the time. However I have found that the difficulties in London have been much the same as those in New Zealand; we have overcome them in exactly the same way. The death rate in the first year in the Infant Hospital here has been under one per cent. The same degree of success has attended our work in connection with mothers admitted to establish or re-establish breast feeding. A wide field is open to nurses in Public Health work, and no branch calls more insistently for the well-trained, tactful and understanding nurse. All of us know the discouraging aspects of ordinary sick nursing of infants, and all of us can recall instances when we have worked untiringly to save some child's life while realising that we were powerless to touch the conditions which have brought the child to hospital, and that any day, after it has been cured and sent home, the child may return to the hospital because of the conditions referred to. How much more satisfying it is to feel that you are doing work not only to cure pain but to prevent its occurrence. We all realise how the interest of the family centres on the baby, and just in the same way the interest of the whole community could easily be centred on the welfare of babies.

The first and last word to be said regarding the special health mission undertaken by the women of New Zealand in the interests of Motherhood is that from start to finish it has been an educational work for mutual helpfulness. They have spared no pains first to acquire and then to disseminate knowledge; they have realised that high standards are just as necessary for one class as another; that so far as motherhood and babyhood are concerned there is as much need for reform in the upper classes as there is among the so-called poor and ignorant. This should be attained by co-operation and education and not by patronage and charity.

We regret that we are unable to publish the very interesting discussion which took place after the lecture; at its close Miss Paterson proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Patrick for her valuable paper, and this was warmly responded to.

### MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

A Meeting of the General Council was held on July 17th. The Report of the Treasurer showed a satisfactory balance in the various Funds, and that of the Hon. Secretary stated that since the last Meeting of the Council, 172 nurses had had their names placed on the Register, while one

Medical man and 94 nurses had been elected Members. Two resignations from Membership and the death of one Member were reported, and the remainder of the Report dealt chiefly with the position as regards State Registration. The Hon. Officers were re-elected, and the following were elected to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee:—Mr. Carson, Lieut.-Colonel Goodall, Dr. Maxwell Simpson, Dr. Whittick, Miss Bickerton, R.R.C., Miss Bryson, Miss Cutler, Miss Hulme, Miss Villiers, Mrs. Glover, Miss Cave-Browne-Cave, Miss Cobbett, and Miss Le Geyt.

After transacting business connected with the Registration Bill and other matters arising from correspondence the Meeting terminated.

### R.B.N.A. MEMBERS AT HOME.

Members of the Association and of the Organised Societies of Nurses are invited to tea at 10, Orchard Street, on Saturday, August 2nd, from 3 to 6 p.m., and we shall be very pleased if any of the Members care to bring friends who are also trained nurses. This will be the last gathering of the Members before the holidays.

### TRAINED NURSES' ANNUITY FUND.

It has been proposed by members of the Association that we should have a Sale of Work for the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund late in November. Such sales have been held from time to time for this particular Fund, and we think that Members of the Association will very willingly co-operate in trying to make that which is to take place in the autumn a success. It will not be held in any sense as a public function, but we hope that the Members will do what they can to interest their friends in it, as we are anxious to meet at the earliest possible moment the claims of those who are still on the waiting list for annuities. Money arising from the Sale will be placed towards the Princess Christian Annuities for aged and sick nurses. It was originally proposed by Members to have the Sale at 10, Orchard Street, but Mrs. Price has very kindly said that she will arrange to have it at 67, Eaton Place. We thank those who have so generously given to the Annuity Fund since it was affiliated with the Benevolent Funds of their own Association. Since we decided late last autumn to found a "Princess Christian Annuity," £721 has been collected, but the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association are only to a certain extent responsible for the success of the new Annuities to be connected with the name of their gracious President, because the Chairman of the T.N.A.F.—Mr. Montagu Price, D.L.—and some of his friends gave very practical support by contributing a sum of £270 towards them. The sum of £500 is required for each Annuity, so that if the Nurses will give pieces of needlework (a craft in which so many of them excel) or other work, we may hope to complete the amount required for a second Annuity before the close of the year.

(Signed) ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

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