

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the College of Nursing, Ltd., was held at the House of the Royal Society of Medicine on Thursday, June 17th, at 3 p.m., the Chairman of the Company, the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, presided, and proposed that the Report and Accounts which were in the hands of the meeting should be received and adopted.

Sir Arthur Stanley said that last year was one of the greatest possible importance not only to the College of Nursing but also to the Nursing profession generally, as 1919 saw the Act for the State Registration of Nurses placed upon the Statute Book. The College had set itself to build up a membership of 20,000 so as to strengthen the force behind the Registration movement, but "it came" before they had got that number. It was representative not only of individual nurses but also of the great training schools. He then dealt in detail with the activities of the College.

In regard to finance, which was the bedrock of success "we," said Sir Arthur, "established the Nation's Fund for Nurses to meet two needs—to provide an Endowment Fund for the College of Nursing, and a Tribute Fund for necessitous nurses in sickness, distress and old age, who were not able to follow their profession." They aimed at £100,000, bringing in an income of £5,000 a year, and, thanks to generous subscriptions, they had reached a sum not very far short of that amount.

They were prepared for very heavy demands upon the Tribute Fund, but not for so many as they had. At the end of the financial year the sum stood at £56,783, and without disclosing secrets he might say that, thanks to generous donors, the figure now showed an increase of not much less than £30,000.

But there was the other side. The expenditure had exceeded the income by £782.

The Register last year had cost them that amount, and the *Bulletin* £270. Thus they had had exceptional expenses. On the other hand, he had never known a society which did not have exceptional expenses annually.

Referring to the foundation of the various College Centres and to the fact that the nurses themselves had found something over £51,000, Sir Arthur said that here indeed was a token that the great nursing profession had found itself at last.

Mrs. J. M. Jones said that she belonged to several societies and each had an annual subscription. She asked how the College proposed to go on living? There was the cost of living, and the cost of salaries, and it had been asked why they were trying to raise the salaries of nurses and yet paid their own officials so badly. They had advertised for an Organising Secretary at £200 a year, and everyone knew that no woman could, in these days, possibly live on that sum. She begged to propose that members should pay an annual subscription.

Miss Burgess considered that new members should pay a subscription of 5s. per annum.

The Chairman said that the Report and Accounts should now be adopted and then this question could be discussed. This having been done, he asked for an expression of opinion on the question of an annual subscription. It was only fair that those who came in now that the College was an established thing should contribute something.

A member expressed the opinion that nurses would be unable to pay five shillings a year as well as the initial fee of £1 1s.

The Chairman said that whatever was now passed could not be forced upon existing members. If they chose to pay a subscription the Council would be glad to receive it. All they could do now was to advise the Council that steps should be taken to alter the Articles of Association so as to enable an annual subscription to be paid.

Mrs. Jones considered it vital that an annual subscription should be paid.

It was agreed that the question should be referred to the Council for consideration and report.

Dame Sidney Browne here took the chair, and Miss Rundle announced the result of the ballot for election of members to the Council in place of those retiring in rotation, and being eligible for re-election. They were:—

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Sir Arthur Stanley, Miss Sparshott, Miss Lloyd-Still, Dr. Jane Walker, Mr. Russell Howard, Lord Knutsford, Miss E. M. Wyatt (Queen's Nurse), Miss Louisa K. Bowden (School Nurse).

SCOTLAND.

Miss Calder, Miss Turnbull.

IRELAND.

Dr. George Peacocke, Miss Annie Michie.

The new members are Mr. Russell Howard, Lord Knutsford, Miss Wyatt, Queen's Nurse, Ramsgate, and Miss Louisa Bowden, School Nurse, Ashton-under-Lyne, England; Miss T. A. Calder, Sister, Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow; Miss A. H. Turnbull, R.R.C., Superintendent District Visitors, Edinburgh, Scotland; and Miss A. Michie, Superintendent Q.V.J.I., for Ireland.

Miss Cox Davies invited those present to re-elect Sir Arthur Stanley as Chairman, and to give him a very warm welcome. He would come back to them not as a nominated member, but as one who belonged to them, because they had put him there themselves.

This was seconded by Miss Gibson and carried.

On resuming the chair, Sir Arthur Stanley thanked the members for re-electing him as their Chairman. Referring to the elected members, he said that Dame Sarah Swift had retired voluntarily as she thought they wanted new blood. He was glad to welcome Lord Knutsford, though he might not always have seen eye to eye with nurses in the past. Lord Knutsford was a man whom he would rather have with him than against him.

The meeting concluded with the usual votes of thanks.

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