

NOTICE TO FOUNDER MEMBERS.**AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION INVITED.**

Notice has also been sent to Founder Members, informing them that "it was resolved to recommend them to make an annual subscription to the College of 5s., and any sum they may be able to give beyond the 5s. to contribute as a donation."

It will be remembered that nurses were promised that on joining the College the initial fee of £1 is. for registration would be all they would be called upon to pay, and naturally there is disappointment that a subscription is expected. We pointed out at the time that, without means of subsistence, the financial basis of the College scheme was rotten, and that public charity from the Nation's Fund for Nurses appeal was derogatory to an organisation of nurses for social and economic purposes. It is the duty of every such organisation to be self-supporting if it is to attain the respect of its members and the public. An endowment fund for educational and collegiate purposes is a different matter, and for those purposes any charitable contributions should be earmarked by the Council of the College.

The College constitution provided for the absolute absorption and control of the whole nursing profession—social, economic, educational, and disciplinary—the fetters to be forged by Act of Parliament. Naturally such a scheme aroused keen alarm in the minds of nurses who desired to work out their own salvation, and retain their personal liberty in the body politic. Thanks to the Nursing Acts (which did not incorporate the College), the organisation of the nursing profession on self-governing lines is assured in the future, if the nurses on their Councils are true to their cloth, and exercise their responsibilities with courage and devotion. Thus higher and more systematic nursing education and just discipline are provided for, through the General Nursing Councils, and are outside the immediate activities of the College of Nursing, Ltd.; but just economic conditions and the social welfare and happiness of Registered Nurses remain, and it is along such lines that the nurses' organisations will do well to work in the future. The encouragement of citizenship amongst nurses, the uplifting of the mind through refined companionship, the study of the arts and sciences, wholesome recreation indoors and out, and all the time, books, newspapers, good talk, and travel, and something on which to feast the affections!

A full life, in fact, instead of a narrow one. To get away from the cramping misery of the mental starvation line, and with a skip and a jump find a land of plenty for spirit, soul and body. The nurses must, however, work out their own salvation by co-operation, and the first thing to do is to finance their organisations. At present these organisations are expected to make bricks without straw, or are living on charity.

NOTICE.

A few old subscribers have not paid their subscriptions to the B. J. N. for the past three months; no further copies of the JOURNAL will be sent until subscriptions have been received.

A LOSS TO NURSING IN ITALY.

FROM OUR ROME CORRESPONDENT.

The Scuola Regina Elena has recently lost a great friend and patron by the sudden death of the Hon. Pietro Bertolini, Minister of Public Works (1909), Minister for the Colonies (1913), and a Member of the Italian Camera. The Hon. P. Bertolini was Italian delegate to the Inter-Allied Commission of Reparations, and it was when returning from the recent Congress in Paris that he was taken ill in the train and died the following day at Turin. He was the author of an able book on Local Government in England, and also of an article on "The History of Nursing and Nursing Reform." Under the aegis of the King of Italy he instituted a Royal Commission of inquiry into hospital reform; and it was mainly through his influence that Giolitti—at that time also Prime Minister—voted in 1910 a grant from Government towards the foundation and upkeep of the Scuola Regina Elena of which Miss Dorothy Snell is still the Matron.

The Hon. P. Bertolini was conspicuous in his private as well as in his public life for his straightforwardness, integrity, and single-hearted devotion to duty. He was a true patriot, and one of the ablest of present-day Italian politicians and diplomatists. Great sympathy is due to his wife and family in their irreparable loss, as well as to his sister-in-law, Marchesa Maraini Guerriere Gonzaga, Vice-President of the Scuola Regina Elena.

On December 23rd an anniversary mass in the Hospital Chapel of the Scuola Regina Elena was held for "Dear Princess Doria," who loved and worked devotedly for it, and whose death a year ago was an irreparable loss to the school, and to all the staff, who loved her dearly.

LEAGUE NEWS.

The winter general meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital was held on December 11th in the Clinical Theatre at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the President, Miss Helen Todd, presiding.

Mrs. Hayward made a short report for the Benevolent Fund Committee, and it was agreed that the Fund should remain in *statu quo*, that members should be invited to add a donation for this purpose when sending their annual subscription, and that a collecting box should be available at League meetings for those who wished to contribute.

As a result of voting papers sent round, it was decided that the annual subscription should remain at 3s. 6d. as heretofore, and that the *League News* should be published once annually—after the summer meeting.

The President, on behalf of the League, then asked Mrs. Turnbull to accept a gold-mounted fountain pen, engraved with the hospital badge, as a memento of her four years' work as Treasurer,

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