

## QUEEN'S NURSES.

### ANNUAL REPORT.

The Report for the year 1920 from the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses to the Patron, Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, signed by the Chairman of the Council, Sir Harold Boulton, states that it has been marked by most satisfactory progress in the many branches of the Institute's work, though it has caused the greatest anxiety to those who are responsible for securing the necessary financial support. We read:—

"At the beginning of the year the position was grave, as it was anticipated that the expenditure would exceed the estimated income by nearly £5,000; but in the course of the year it became even more critical. The Nation's Fund for Nurses did not succeed in raising as much money as had been hoped, and, in consequence, Sir Arthur Stanley was unable to provide the £7,000 promised to the Institute, nor is he able to hold out much hope of fulfilling his promises for 1921 and 1922. He has, however, kindly arranged that half the proceeds of the Victory Ball held in November should be allocated to the Institute, and it is understood that this share will amount to about £2,000.

"The Council acknowledge, with the deepest gratitude, a grant of £5,000, given by the Joint Finance Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, in recognition of the services rendered by the Institute to the sick and suffering; this, with a legacy, has enabled the work to be carried on to the end of the year without incurring a deficit.

"The grants given by the Board of Education for midwifery training have made it possible to train more Queen's Nurses in that branch of work, but the shortage of Queen's Nurses willing to practise midwifery is still acute."

The Report notes the appointment of Miss Peterkin (the General Superintendent) and Miss Ellinor Smith (the Superintendent for Wales) as members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales set up under the Nurses Registration Act, 1919. It also chronicles the presentation by Queen Alexandra to Miss Peterkin of the Gold Badge as a mark of her special services to the Institute.

Of the Nurses who resigned during 1920, 143 received "Leaving Badges," having completed a term of at least six years' service as Queen's Nurses, and 276 were awarded certificates, having served not less than two years.

The Executive Committee report further to the subscribers that the Queen's Nurses' Benefit

Fund is to receive £2,000 from the *Daily Telegraph* Fund.

The demand for Queen's Nurses is greater than ever before in the history of the Institute, while the cost of training each nurse is twice as much as it was in 1916.

### MEETING OF COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was held at 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W., on July 20th. Sir Harold Boulton presided.

A special resolution was passed thanking the Marchioness Curzon for organising the ball at Lansdowne House on behalf of the Institute.

The reorganisation of the inspection work is being put into operation, and the Council passed a special resolution expressing appreciation of the services rendered by the inspectors of the Institute. They feel that it is largely due to the faithful and intelligent service of inspectors that the position of the Queen's Nurse throughout the United Kingdom stands so high. Eleven associations have been affiliated to the Institute, and sixty-nine nurses have been placed on the Queen's Roll since the last meeting.

The progress of the negotiations with the approved societies for payment for the nursing of insured persons was reported. It is hoped that the national scheme may come into operation very shortly. The widespread objection amongst the Queen's Nurses to being included in the Unemployment Insurance Act was referred to.

It was reported that a deputation from the Standing Committee of County Nursing Associations had been received at the Ministry of Labour in regard to the position of nurses under the Unemployment Insurance Act. It was stated that the Minister has no power to grant exemption as the Act stands at present, and the Council agreed to ask the Organisations which represent the Nurses themselves to take the matter up and see whether it is not possible to get an Amending Act passed which will exempt Nurses, or draw up a special scheme for Nurses, under which they could receive some other benefit such as superannuation allowance in place of unemployment pay. It is understood that any special scheme could not be approved for probably two years.

### LANSDOWNE HOUSE BALL.

The Marchioness Curzon of Kedleston presented to Queen Alexandra on Monday, at Marlborough House, a cheque for £3,342 4s. 2d., being the proceeds of the ball organised by her at Lansdowne House on June 22nd, in aid of the funds of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

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