

to give in to this upstart body, I just am not. I mean to be master." And "master" she has apparently remained, as she is still actively interested in nursing organisation. On reminding her recently of the above episode, she said quite affectionately, as if speaking of a pussy cat, "I'm bound to own it's been a very good little body!"

Lord Provost Hutchison presided at the Annual Meeting of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, held at 29, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, on December 30th, when we regret to state that the report presented showed a deficiency of over £6,000 on the year's working, at the close of accounts on October 31st. This had to be met by the sale of securities and a consequent loss of income. A Special Appeal had been issued for funds to carry on and extend the work, and the result had been to obtain, to October 15th, £3,472. It had been necessary to apply that to current expenditure. The extraordinary receipts had been £1,000 in legacies, the sum of £3,472 from the Special Appeal, and a special grant from the Red Cross Society of £2,000. Owing to these exceptional receipts, the accounts for the year had been squared, but the serious financial outlook was a cause of great anxiety to the Council.

The report stated that the position of all nurses under the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1920 was unfortunate, as employers and nurses were bound to contribute, but the nurses were unlikely to get any advantage under the Act. The Scottish Council, in view of their Pension Fund, made application to the Minister of Labour for exemption for Scottish Queen's Nurses, but he decided that he had not power to grant exemption, as the Pension Fund was not statutory. The Scottish Council thanked Mr. William Graham, M.P., for the support and assistance which he gave them in urging this application. The Council were at present considering the advisability of applying to Parliament to have the Pension Fund made statutory, in order to get exemption from payment under the Unemployment Insurance Act both for affiliated Associations and Scottish Queen's Nurses.

The work done by Queen's Nurses is an invaluable asset to the nation. Scotland is noted for its princely gifts to its hospitals, and we hope that benefactors will not only show their appreciation of nursing carried out in build-

ings which can be seen, but will remember also that going on daily in the homes of the poor, at most moderate cost. A Scotchman likes good value for his money. He will get it up to the hilt if he finances the work of the Q.V.J.I., which is so quiet and unostentatious that it is apt to be overlooked.

General Gouraud has recently decorated Mlle. Beaulieu, one of the most distinguished war nurses of France, with the Legion of Honour. This impressive tribute to a brave woman was accompanied by characteristic ceremonial.

Many trained nurses who worked in France during the war and are now helping in the devastated districts are warmly in favour of the *Entente*, which financial disintegrating influences are apparently endangering. One nurse writes: "Has the world so soon forgotten that it was before all things the heroism of France which withstood the onslaught of barbarism and saved the world from the horrors of its triumph. If it had not been for the war cry of Verdun, 'Ils ne passeront pas,' where should we have been? Do reprint the enclosed verses: I know these five lovely rivers."

#### THE RIVERS OF FRANCE.

The rivers of France are ten score and twain,  
But five are the names that we know—  
The Marne, the Vesle, the Ourcq, and the Aisne,  
And the Somme of the swampy flow.

The rivers of France, from source to the sea,  
Are nourished by many a rill;  
But these five, if ever a drought there be,  
The fountains of sorrow would fill.

The rivers of France shine silvery white,  
But the waters of five are red  
With the richest blood, in the fiercest fight  
For the Freedom, that ever was shed.

The rivers of France sing soft as they run,  
But five have a song of their own,  
That hymns the fall of the arrogant one  
And the proud cast down from his throne.

The rivers of France all quietly take  
To sleep in the house of their birth,  
But the carnadined wave of five shall break  
On the uttermost strands of earth.

Five rivers of France, see their names are writ  
On a banner of crimson and gold,  
And the glory of those who fashioned it  
Shall nevermore cease to be told.

—H.J.M., in "Nursing Journal of India."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)