

Our income for the year (which includes two most generous donations from Lord Revelstoke and Sir Cosmo Bonsor) amounts to £920. 19s., and our expenditure to £930 4s. 8d.; we have to draw from our balance of last year (£302), a sum of £9 5s. 8d., which leaves us with a balance at the bank of £284 9s. 7d. to meet the expenses of the coming year.

THE IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

At the recent meeting of Irish Nurses' Association, 19, Parnell Square, Dublin, the Annual Report presented included the following items:—

On presenting our third Annual Report, we wish to thank all those who have given us their kindly help and co-operation during the past year, and especially do we wish to thank the Doctors who have delivered lectures to the members of the Association.

So many cases of illness have come under our notice during the past year that it has very forcibly brought home to us the great need which exists for a State-aided Compulsory and Contributory Benefit and Pensions Scheme. Especially does this apply to the case of Nurses engaged in private work, as they, being considered their own employers, are not compelled to be insured under the National Health Insurance Act, and have not even this benefit, small and inadequate as it is, to rely upon during a time of illness. As it is now compulsory for Nurses to pass a State Examination, before being admitted to the Register, and for which a fee of two guineas has to be paid, surely the State ought to accept some responsibility in regard to the salaries, appointments, and conditions of service, and show a little recognition for the valuable services rendered by the Nursing Profession, by establishing a Benefit and Pensions Scheme.

The Association has intervened with the Minister for Local Government and Public Health regarding existing conditions in the County Homes, and, although we have secured improvements in many cases, and have always got the most courteous and kindly consideration from the Local Government and Public Health Department, our Trained Nurses are still, in several of the Homes, working under very unsatisfactory and trying conditions.

Now that the State Badge may be obtained, the Association would suggest that all nurses, especially those sent out on private cases, should get and wear this Badge as a mark of their being Registered General Nurses.

At the Quarterly Meeting in November, B. Crichton, Esq., M.D., delivered a most instructive lecture on "Croup and the Treatment and Care of Nervous Children," which was well attended and highly appreciated.

The Executive discussed the question of Registration of Nursing Homes, and it was decided to place the matter before the National Council of Trained Nurses and ask if they would move in the matter.

The question of fees and hours of the Private Nurse and the differentiation between day and night duty, and the necessity of a uniform scale for all Co-operative Homes being adopted, was fully discussed, and a flat rate of fees agreed upon, and the scale submitted to the Matrons of the various Co-operative Homes asking for their approval.

If the Trained Nurses were all in one organisation, governed and controlled by those in their own Profession, something progressive could be done, and we therefore once again make an earnest appeal to all Trained Nurses to join the Association, and so help to further the interests and aims of the Nursing Profession as a whole.

It is with keen regret that we have to announce that our President for the past two years, Miss Gregory, has resigned and would not seek re-election, and we wish to place on record our high appreciation of the services rendered by her during her term of office.

A resolution, congratulating Miss Huxley, who first established the Irish Nurses' Association, on having an Honorary Degree conferred on her by the Dublin University was put to the meeting and passed with acclamation.

At the conclusion of the meeting, tea was served and a pleasant hour spent in conversation.

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

At the Annual Meetings of the Nurses' Missionary League on May 3rd four of the speakers gave interesting accounts of work overseas. Mrs. Boyland, who was one of the first trained nurses to go to Persia, spoke of the wonderful opportunities in that land, mentioning especially the work of training Armenian and Persian Nurses, of saving would-be opium-suicides, and of helping the little girls crippled by work in the carpet factories. Doctor Eleanor Dodson, who had spent thirty years in India, contrasted the early days when nursing was considered degrading work and hardly any girls could be induced to take it up, with the present day when Indian girls are being trained to make excellent nurses, and there are many applications from Mohammedan and Hindu as well as Christian girls. Miss Taylor spoke of the great diversity of patients in India from the high-caste ladies only to be reached by medical work, to the out-castes often forbidden to draw water from the wells in a Hindu village, and very responsive to the love shown in a Mission hospital. Miss Manwaring gave a most graphic account of work on the borders of Afghanistan. In spite of the keenness of the present king for education and modern methods, the messengers of the Gospel are still forbidden to enter his country, but thousands of patients from Afghanistan come to the Mission hospitals, which are placed at the foot of each of the passes. Miss Manwaring told of the blood-feuds by which whole families are wiped out, mentioning one man with a gunshot wound in his leg for whom amputation was the only hope, but who refused it because if he had died under the anaesthetic his relatives could not have taken vengeance on the man who shot him! She described also their primitive methods of treatment, such as tying the skin of a recently killed sheep over a wound. She had a thrilling tale to tell, too, of the six weeks spent each spring at Shikarpur, where a Hindu banker built a hospital for the Missionaries to treat eye-cases. This year, 6,000 new cases were seen and 1,392 operations performed for cataract alone, besides many others for hernia, stone, abdominal tumours, etc.

Each of these speakers could tell the same story of terrible under-staffing, and of the tragedy when one worker is ill or leaves for furlough. As Mrs. Boyland said, "it is the maximum of work with the minimum of workers." Miss Manwaring closed with the words: "Now that you have heard of the need, the responsibility is yours. What will your answer be?"

On June 7th an At Home will be held in connection with the Nurses' Missionary League at the Church House, Westminster, at which an address will be given by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Blackburn, President of the League. The chair will be taken at 3.15 by Sir Maurice Craig, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. Any Nurses or friends who can be present are asked to apply for invitation cards to Miss Richardson, 135, Ebury Street, S.W.1.

The first Holiday Camp organised by the Nurses' Missionary League will this year be held at Sandsend, Yorkshire, from June 30th to July 14th. These camps, which are always most popular, are not restricted to members of the League. For particulars apply to Miss Richardson (General Secretary) or Miss A. O. Shaw (Camp Secretary), 135, Ebury Street, London, S.W.1.

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