

The Committee regarded the action in the High Court as an unfortunate and, so far as they were concerned, an unavoidable incident, but it was gratifying that the case had been conducted with discretion. In these days when it was often held that women were not capable of managing business it was very satisfactory that the Committee had shown its ability to conduct the administration of the Association in a business-like manner, as proved by the opinion of the learned Judge. Those who have experience in the Courts realise how readily a case may be adversely influenced, and the result of the action had been very satisfactory.

#### The Report of the Hon. Treasurer.

In her Report, on presenting the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet, Miss Farrant, Hon. Treasurer to the Corporation, pointed to a balance of £5 11s. 11d. of income over expenditure on the General Fund, which was satisfactory in view of the fact that expenses had been higher than in the previous year, principally in connection with repairs to our premises, increased rates and taxes, and also because of the action in the High Court. The Judge had awarded costs to the Association, but the nurse who raised the action had contended that she could not meet them, and ultimately the Committee had accepted £50 as a full discharge of the sum of £116 14s. 2d. due from her. Various changes in investments were referred to by the Treasurer and reasons were given for making those. In the Settlement Fund a balance of income over expenditure of £15 1s. 4d. was reported, but in a sense the Helena Benevolent Fund showed a less satisfactory condition of affairs in an excess of expenditure over income of £106 6s. 11d. This was due to a larger number of grants made to nurses; the cases where assistance had been given were urgently in need of financial help and it was not held back. The Treasurer thanked the Members for all their generosity, which had enabled the Association to carry on its activities throughout the year.

#### The Result of the Ballot to fill Vacancies on the General Council.

The result of the ballot was declared and the following were elected to fill vacancies on the General Council arising under Bye-law XVII :-

*Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses.*—Misses Elma Smith, A. Stewart Bryson, A. Y. Brodie, C. R. Gooding, S. H. Vian, A. Marshall, E. M. Northover, L. M. Havers, G. Vergette, Lady Mitchell; *Sisters and Nurses.*—Misses M. Parker, B. Ryan, M. Anderson, Mrs. H. Lambert, Misses Agnes Barclay, M. Dempster, Mrs. Mousley, Mrs. Brownsey, Mrs. Ta Bois, Mrs. Eeles; *Medical Men*—Dr. Henning Belfrage, Dr. J. H. Dunn, Dr. Glover, Dr. C. Courtenay Lord, Dr. McCrae, Dr. MacIlwaine, Dr. Burnett Rae, Mr. Michael Smyth, Dr. Stirling, Dr. Browning Alexander.

#### A Matter of Urgency.

As a matter of urgency the Chairman drew the attention of the Meeting to the Midwives Acts Amendment Bill now in the Committee stage in the House of Commons, saying that if any steps were to be taken to amend its provisions it must be at once. She called upon Miss Breay to give a brief statement of some points which called for criticism.

Miss Breay said that while the Bill was likely to prove of value in relation to its main purpose—the improvement of the standard of domiciliary midwifery in England and Wales—there was nothing to ensure that State Certified Midwives who were to be employed as whole-time officials by Local Supervising Authorities, and might consequently be engaged in other duties than midwifery, such as general nursing or health visiting, should be State Registered Nurses. An amendment making this provision should be

inserted in the Bill, otherwise the sick poor in rural districts might be deprived of the skilled and standardised nursing to which they were entitled if provided by a State subsidised service, and State Registered Nurses who disapproved of this system would be compelled to support it through payment of rates and taxes.

Mrs. Vezey spoke in support of the Bill and its provisions from other points of view. Miss Farrant spoke on the necessity for keeping the control of the nursing and midwifery services under the control of the larger bodies such as the County and County Borough Councils. She considered it to be essential that somehow, in the Act which it was proposed to establish, all who do nursing under its aegis should be State Registered Nurses and an endeavour should be made to secure this before the Bill under discussion passes into law. The Chairman said that it was to be remembered that once it did so the services, for which it makes provision, would be paid for out of the public funds, and as taxpayers the Registered Nurses were justified in asking that their status be recognised under the proposed legislation. But what was even more important was that the interests of the poor be safeguarded by securing that only Registered Nurses shall be employed under legislative authority for the nursing provided.

It was decided that the Minister of Health be asked to receive a Deputation from the Association in connection with the matter and, if he consented to do so, it was agreed that Mr. Paterson, Miss Breay, Miss Farrant and Miss Le Geyt be asked to act as members of the deputation, powers being given to the Hon. Officers to co-opt others should this appear to be advisable. It was also agreed that a letter be sent to certain bodies conveying the views of the Association.

Messrs. Pittman Wood & Co. were appointed Auditors for the ensuing year on the motion of the Hon. Treasurer.

Mrs. Berens Dowdeswell moved a vote of thanks to the Hon. Officers which was seconded by Mrs. Vezey and carried with acclamation. Mrs. Berens Dowdeswell said that it was to be remembered that it would soon be 50 years since Mrs. Fenwick founded the Association. These had been years during which she had given all her energies to the improvement of nursing organisation. A vote of thanks was awarded to Miss Treasure, Miss Flora Macdonald and Mrs. Mousley for lovely flowers provided for the meeting; at its close a beautiful bouquet of carnations and purple iris was presented to Mrs. Fenwick from the Members by Miss Swaby Smith, and afterwards tea was provided for those present at the Meeting.

#### GIFTS TO THE CLUB.

Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Apperley, Miss Ewing, Mrs. Greenhill, Miss Hancock, Miss Ibbetson, Miss Flora Macdonald, Mrs. Mackenzie, Mrs. Mousley, Miss Page, Miss Robertson, Miss Ross, Miss Swaby Smith, Miss Treasure have sent us quantities of beautiful flowers, which have been very greatly appreciated indeed by the Members in residence.

#### OUR SUMMER RAMBLE.

We have arranged a Ramble to Stratford-on-Avon for Wednesday, June 24th; the coach will leave 194, Queen's Gate at 8.30 a.m. and drive through beautiful country taking in on the way Aylesbury, Bicester, Banbury, Warwick, Kenilworth, Leamington, Daventry and Towcester. The ticket will be 8s., and those who wish to go should notify the Secretary at an early date.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

194, Queen's Gate,  
London, S.W.7.

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