

out. With regard to the accounts, the Association had received from annual subscriptions alone, as much as the whole cost of its working required, so that it was able every year to put by a certain amount of money to its reserve—a fact that shewed it was not only in a very sound but in a very flourishing position (applause).

Dr. BEZLY THORNE, in seconding the resolution, said he re-echoed what had been said as to the deep debt of gratitude the Association owed to her Royal Highness Princess Christian for consenting to present the petition for the Charter in her own name to the Queen in Council. When one considered the position she held they must admit she had stepped forward to defend the cause of nursing in a manner which was most noble, and which they could hardly sufficiently recognise. There would be hardly a member of the Association who had not been made aware of a statement in the Press to the effect that the decided opinion of the Lords' Committee of Hospitals was adverse to the system of Registration established by the Association. There were few statements so absolutely fallacious that constant reiteration would not make them believed, if people had not time to test their accuracy. Anyone who took up the third Report of the Lords' Committee might ascertain for themselves that the Lords did not express any such opinion. There was interpolated in the report an observation by a witness, or by the Clerk who drew up the report, but when they looked to the part of the report containing the Lords' conclusions there was no statement about registration, and it was therefore contrary to the truth to say that the Lords had expressed an adverse opinion as to the registration work of the Association. In order that there might be no mistake he wrote to Lord Sandhurst, who was Chairman of the Committee, and he had his lordship's authority for stating that the paragraph which appeared, and had been repeated, in the public Press was not correct. He was sure the members of the Association would be glad to hear that (applause). In conclusion, he said there was nothing he would not do to advance the cause of the Association, and of nursing generally. He only hoped the members of the Association would be lenient enough to overlook any faults that might be found in his work (applause). The motion was then put and carried.

Some alterations were made in the bye-laws, mainly with the view of enabling the Association to remove from the list of membership those whose subscriptions remained unpaid.—The Council was re-elected with the addition of Dr. Hollis, on the motion of Miss Wood.—A vote of thanks to the Mayor and Corporation for giving free access to the collection of pictures in the Pavilion was moved by Miss Mackey, seconded by Miss Stewart, and carried.—On the motion of Mrs. Fenwick, a vote of thanks was passed to the Committee of the Sussex County Hospital for their kindness in offering hospitality to the members of the Association.—On the motion of Miss Scott, a vote of thanks was accorded to the Committee of the Home of Rest for Nurses for their offer of hospitality to members.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman.—Miss WOOD seconded.—The CHAIRMAN, in replying, congratulated the members on the rapid progress the Association had made during the four years of its existence. The fact that the number of Nurses enrolled as members was upwards of 2,800, and that 1,829 had voluntarily placed their names upon the register, told its own tale, and shewed the high value which Nurses accorded to the act of registration as a means of protecting themselves and the public from the assumption of the title of trained Nurses by the incompetent. The days of Sairey Gamp had gone, let them hope never to return, but people still

entrusted the care of their sick, for the most part, to the self-constituted Nurse, who might be never so unfitted physically, intellectually, or morally to undertake their management. To remedy that evil many Metropolitan and Provincial Hospitals had, during the past few years, engaged in the training of Medical and Surgical Nurses, and, by granting certificates to those who had undergone a certain term of instruction in the Hospital wards, they had to some extent ameliorated the position of a trained Nurse. Medical men could unfortunately, give the public scant assistance in the selection of a properly qualified Nurse, for under the present system there was no assurance that the holder of a certificate was a competent trained Nurse.

The want of uniformity in the conditions under which different Hospitals now granted certificates for competency to Nurses was an evil with which the Association had attempted to cope by introducing a fixed time-standard—three years' training in a recognised Hospital school—as the qualification to admission on its register. He imagined that, in spite of opposition, some such selective process would be hereafter widely adopted and legalised. Dr. Hollis proceeded to refer to the invalid public as the hardest of taskmasters. In conclusion he referred to the Benevolent Fund of the Association, from which pecuniary assistance was given to members of at least two years' standing who were in need of such aid; to its pensions, and its meetings for the discussion of papers on nursing and kindred subjects. It was, however, to the system of co-operation instituted by the Association they must look for the great results eventually in store for it.—The proceedings then came to a close.

THE LUNCHEON.

An adjournment was then made to the Banqueting Room, where a luncheon was held, Alderman Dr. Ewart presiding.—After luncheon the loyal toast was given from the chair.—The Mayor then proposed "The President, her Royal Highness Princess Christian." He said her Royal Highness took a warm interest in the Association, and exercised a good deal of her judgment and wisdom in its foundation. The careful way in which every detail was then manipulated had made it comparatively easy for the Association to proceed successfully to its present high pitch of prosperity. He understood Her Royal Highness would have been present but for other pressing engagements. He was told there was not a detail in the working of their large and progressive Association which was not thoroughly well understood by her, and nothing that took place in the Association which had not her very earnest and careful attention. He believed it was owing to her exertions that the Home of Rest was formed in Sussex-square in that town. She must have realised as well as anyone could, the absolute necessity of obtaining a means of rest and recreation for Nurses fatigued and overcome with arduous work. He understood the Home, which was only opened in May last year, has been a complete success. He was quite sure that all those who had benefitted by their short residence there would go back and sound the praises not only of the Home, but also of the beautiful sanatorium with which it was surrounded on all sides.

The Mayor then proposed "The Nursing Profession." He said he looked upon the Nursing profession as part and parcel of the medical profession itself (applause), for without the aid of good Nursing medical men could not completely and perfectly perform their duties. No one could have overlooked the fact that there had been a remarkable progress in the qualifications of the Nurses of the present day, but it was necessary to accentuate that progress, and in order to do that the Nursing profession must be banded together, so that they might be in a position to raise their own status, and to increase their quali-

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