

## BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

HER Royal Highness Princess Christian, attended by Miss Emily Loch, was present at a meeting of the General Council of the British Nurses' Association, held in the rooms of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society on Friday, January 9, at five p.m. There was a numerous and influential gathering, evincing forcibly a very earnest sympathy in the objects of this Association. Miss Nancy Paul, secretary, stated that letters of sympathy and regret for absence had been received from Sir James Paget, Sir George Paget, Sir Henry Acland, Sir Guyer Hunter, M.P., Sir Spencer Wells, Sir Prescott Hewett, Mr. Brudenell Carter, and Dr. Joseph Bell.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick (Hon. Secretary) presented the following report of the Executive Committee :—

(1) That the total number of Trained Nurses now enrolled on the Register is 1,718.

(2) That the Second Annual Report was issued to members at the beginning of November, and that it is hoped that the first number of the Quarterly Journal, which will henceforth take the place of the Annual Report, will be issued at the end of February, and thereafter in May, August and November. Its appearance will this year be unavoidably delayed in consequence of the press of work consequent on the preparation and issue of the first Register of Nurses.

(3) That the Register of Trained Nurses for 1891 is now passing through the press, and will, it is hoped, be issued to the public in about a month's time; but a first copy has been prepared in order to be presented at this meeting to Her Royal Highness the President of the Association, to whose steadfast help and invaluable advice the Executive Committee owes more than it can adequately express.

(4) The ordinary Sessional Meetings have been arranged, and will take place as in former years, during the winter, on the evenings of the third Friday of each month. The *Conversazione* was held at the Princes' Hall on December 5. About eight hundred members and friends were present. The expenses amounted to £105 1s., and as was the case last year, these were more than covered by the receipts from the sale of tickets and by a number of donations specially given for the purpose. The object of the Committee has been to provide a social gathering which should entail no expense to the funds of the Association, as at the outset any such expenditure was very strongly

objected to. It has succeeded in doing this, but only with the assistance of large donations. The Committee hopes that in future every Member who attends the *Conversazione* will assist the Committee to cover the expenses by disposing of one or more paying tickets amongst her friends. The Committee this year has to chiefly thank Miss Mackey, the Matron of the Throat Hospital; Mr. Stephen Holland, Miss Homersham, the Oriental Association, Major and Mrs. Myers, Dr. Bezly Thorne, Dr. Sibley, Miss Bevis, Sister Lawrence, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Miss Clarke, Miss Cooper, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Wood for their great assistance in this matter.

(5) The details of the Pension Fund and the Benevolent Scheme are now completed. The Committee is therefore prepared to receive applications from those Members who are eligible, either for one of the Princess Helena Pensions, or for a pecuniary grant. The full regulations for these will be published in the forthcoming issue of the Quarterly Journal.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick then formally proposed, and Miss Wood seconded, the adoption of the Report, and being put to the meeting the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Sir William Savory then addressed Her Royal Highness as follows :—"It is my privilege, on behalf of this Association, to beg of you to accept this copy of the First Annual Register, and in doing so it is far from being the object of the Members of this Association to regard this presentation as a merely formal proceeding. We are deeply sensible of the warm personal interest which your Royal Highness has ever taken in this work, and our grateful thanks are due for the very large share of thought and care which your Royal Highness has given to the welfare of this Society; for the valuable support rendered to it by the dignity of your position; and even these are not all the sources of our gratitude to your Royal Highness. How shall I express our sense of the courage and devotion with which you were pleased to place yourself at our head, at a time when we had nothing to show in the way of work done, at the very commencing of our undertaking, with all our difficulties before us, when we were altogether unknown and unheeded, when we were face to face with many difficulties, with much opposition and misrepresentation? How shall I speak our gratitude to your Royal Highness for deciding to encounter all these difficulties, to aid in promoting the good of this Association? I cannot tell how much we are indebted to the loyalty which the recognition of this action of your Royal Highness inspired in the Members of this Association. I do not doubt that this record of our success, this

*previous page*

*next page*