

precise amount of coal converting a precise amount of water into steam. So the amount of force used by an animal can be calculated with equal certainty, but here of course the parallel ceases, because the muscular waste of the animal's tissue which is caused by any given exertion cannot be seen nor measured with the same accuracy as the consumption of the coal can be. Then, again, the heat given out by burning a pound of coal is a definite and measurable amount, but the heat formed in the human body by the wasting of its tissues is much more difficult to estimate.

(To be continued.)

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



THE Annual Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association took place on Wednesday, July 24th, at 12 a.m., in the Queen's Hall, Langham Place. It was largely attended by Matrons, Nurses and Medical Men, a great many members having come from distant parts of the country to be present.

H.R.H. Princess Christian was received on her arrival by the honorary officers, and she deputed Sir James Crichton Browne to take the chair.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read by the Secretary and scrutineers were appointed to examine the ballot papers for the election of the General Council, 1895-6. Miss Stewart, Miss Maud Smith, Dr. Davey and Mr. Mark Hovell were appointed for this purpose.

Dr. Bezly Thorne presented the following Report :

"The history of the Royal Corporation of British Nurses, since it last met in Annual Meeting, has been one of progress and development.

Her Royal Highness, the President, was pleased to contribute to the proceedings of the International Congress of Hygiene and Demography which met in Buda-Pest in the month of September of last year. A paper on the subject was read by the Medical Honorary Secretary, as delegate of the Corporation, and excited great and deserved interest both at home and abroad.

The Conference of Women Workers which was held in Glasgow in October last was attended by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who kindly consented to represent the Corporation at the invitation of the Executive Committee.

In the second week of last December a Bazaar was held in aid of the funds of the Association, on which heavy demands had been made by the expenses incidental to the obtaining of a Royal Charter of Incorporation, of the transfer of the offices to more spacious and expensive premises, and of an ever-increasing field of useful work, with the result that they were replenished to the extent of some £600. The success of the undertaking was largely due to the presence and active assistance of Her Royal Highness the President, and to the unsparing efforts of the Matrons and Nurses of several of the important London and Provincial Hos-

pitals, as well as to the sympathetic co-operation of ladies and gentlemen not immediately connected with the Association.

The Annual Conversazione was held in connection with the bazaar, and will remain conspicuous in the annals of the Association for its brilliant success.

The lectures delivered under the auspices of the Association, comprise two Educational Courses, the usual Sessional lectures, and some delivered by Dr. Colman on 'The Nursing of Cases of Nervous Diseases.'

The work of the Association continues to extend in the great dependencies of the Empire, and Miss Farquharson, the Matron of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, has been an honorary Secretary of the Association in Melbourne with a view to the more convenient and expeditious transaction of business in the Colony of which that City is the capital, and of the Australasian Colonies generally.

In the month of December last a Conference was held with the Irish members of the General Medical Council on the subject of the establishment of a National Branch in that Kingdom. The project was met with unqualified approval, but it was suggested that some delay in its execution might be advisable.

Progress has been made in the design of establishing Local Centres of the Association in the provinces, and preparations are being made for the inauguration in several towns, notably in Southampton, Cambridge and Brighton.

The formation of a lending and reference library at the offices of the Association is being initiated with gratifying success, and it is expected that that useful and much desired institution will be in full operation by next October.

The Club-room and the arrangements for the provision of light refreshments in connection with it, continue to be regarded with increasing appreciation by members in London.

The opinion of three learned Counsel has been obtained on the subject of retirement by rotation from the governing bodies of the Corporation. The opinion of the Counsel of the Corporation is to the effect that that condition is obligatory on the members of the Council and of the Executive Committee. That of Mr. Swinfen Eady, Q.C., is that it is not applicable to the *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee, while Sir Richard Webster expresses the view that, as regards the Executive Committee, the wording of the Bye-Laws is ambiguous. The three learned gentlemen are unanimous that, as regards the General Council, retirement is compulsory without exception.

The Journal of the Association has been edited during the past year by Miss Josephine de Pledge, with the success which is due to her literary ability and business capacity, and the thanks of the Corporation are due to that lady for the services which she has thus gratuitously contributed to the members at large.

The Corporation has lost the services of Mrs. Walter Spencer, who signified her resignation of the office of Nurse Honorary Secretary to the General Council in April last, and that body proceeded to fill the vacancy by the election of Mrs. Dacre Craven, a lady who occupies a position of eminence in the Nursing world.

Within the past year the membership of the Corporation has been diminished by the erasure of 156 Nurses, on account of their being more than two years

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