

Report of the British Women's Hospital Committee from the commencement of its work : 1915/1919

Contributors

British Women's Hospital Committee.

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REPORT

of the

British Women's Hospital Committee

from the

COMMENCEMENT OF ITS WORK

July, 1915

to

December 31st, 1919



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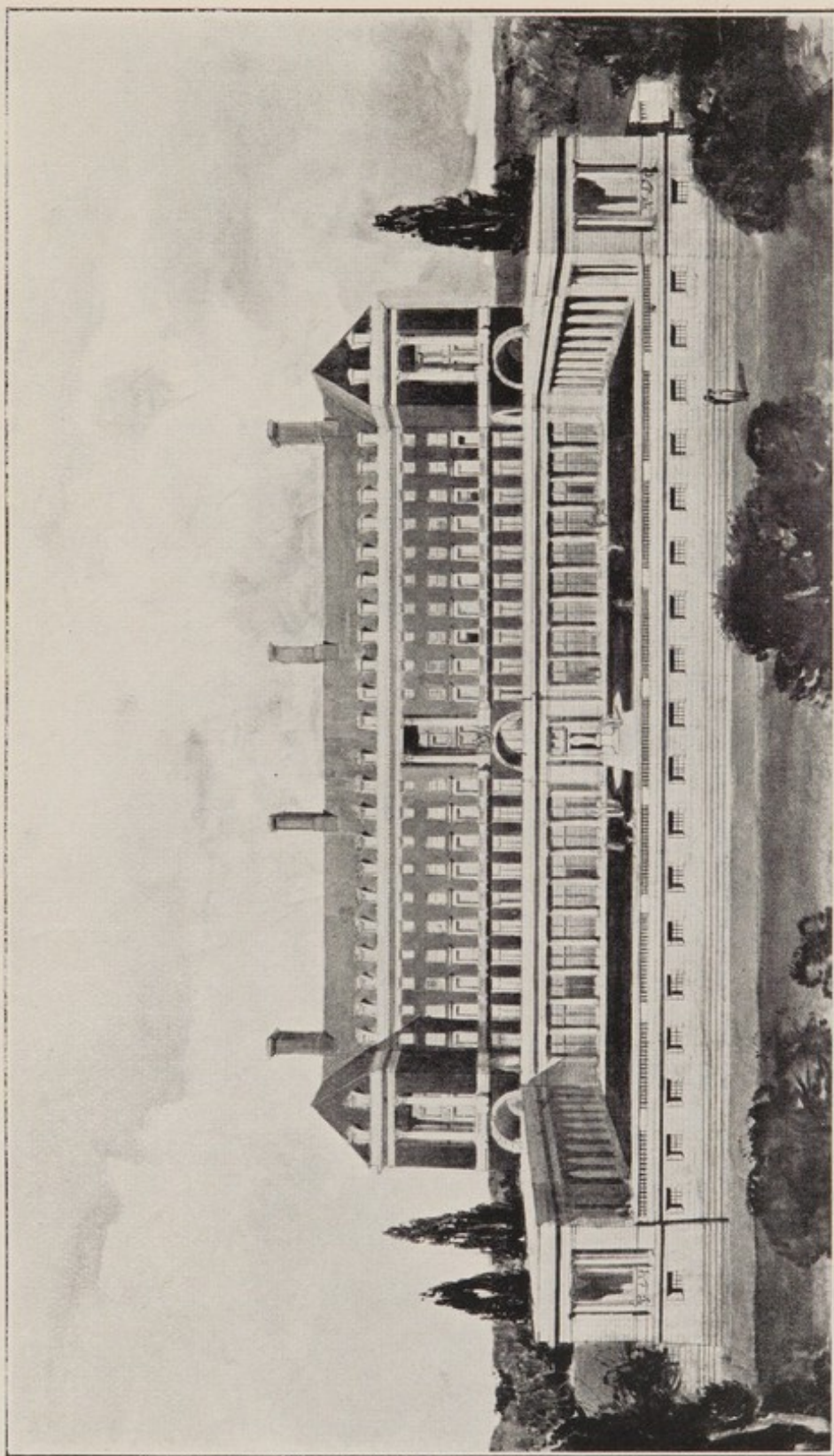
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December 31st, 1919

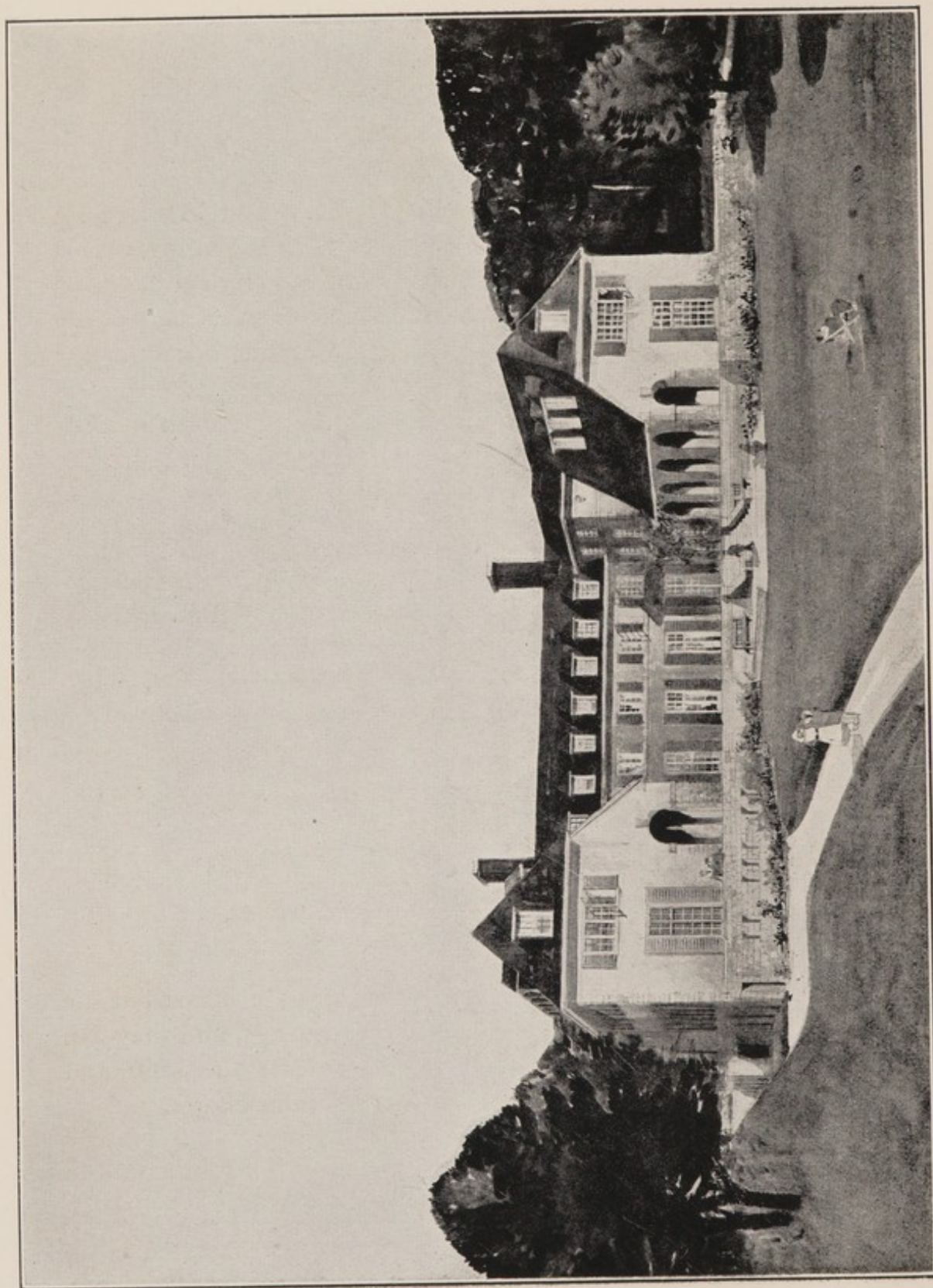
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THE STAR AND GARTER HOME, RICHMOND.



THE STAR AND GARTER HOME, SANDGATE BRANCH.

INTRODUCTION.

THIS is a plain account of a movement organised and carried out by women during the Great War. Its activities, extending over a period of $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, included the collection of funds for the building and part endowment of the Star and Garter Homes for totally disabled men; the privilege of lending a helping hand to the Scottish Women's Hospitals operating in the distressed countries of South-east Europe; and finally, the work of launching an organisation for the benefit of the Nursing Profession, comprising the endowment of a College and the creation of a Tribute Fund for the relief of individual nurses during sickness and disablement.

Though the work of the British Women's Hospital Committee, ^{Permanent Committees.} as detailed in the following pages, is now completed, the organisations which it has been privileged to initiate will go on, the task of administration being vested in permanent committees. The Star and Garter Homes will form a lasting memorial of gratitude to the men who fought in the War, and the College of Nursing and Tribute Fund, a recognition of the services rendered to these men by our nurses.

The collections for the three endeavours reached a sum of ^{Grand Total.} £389,163 17s. 10d. and particular attention is invited to the fact that the expenses have been less than 4 per cent. of this amount.

Looking back upon their work, the Committee are amazed at the proportions which it assumed from modest beginnings, and they can only say—Thanks, and once again, thanks, to all the kind and generous people who so magnificently supported their efforts.

SECTION I.

Star and Garter Building and Endowment Funds.

Origin.

THE British Women's Hospital Committee was formed in July, 1915, by members of the Actresses' Franchise League, with the intention of equipping a Hospital Unit for France. At the suggestion of Sir Frederick Treves, endorsed by Sir Arthur Stanley, the energies of the Committee were almost immediately diverted to the magnificent, if somewhat formidable task of raising a sum of £50,000 for the building of a permanent memorial to our totally disabled men, on the beautiful and historic site of the Star and Garter Hotel, Richmond Hill. The site had already been acquired by the Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute, of the United Kingdom, and presented to H.M. The Queen, and it was the wish of Her Majesty that it should be utilised in this way. In view of the greater work to be done the Actresses' Franchise League (see page 12) decided to add to the Committee, and invited the co-operation of Winifred, Countess of Arran, the Viscountess Cowdray, Mrs. Colefax, and Miss Lilian Braithwaite.

Officials.

In December, 1915, Miss May Whitty, the Chairman of the Actresses' Franchise League, was appointed Chairman, and Lady Cowdray Hon. Treasurer of the Fund, along with Miss Dora Fellowes-Robinson. Lady Forbes-Robertson remained as President, and Miss Nina Boucicault as Hon. Secretary. Mr. C. F. Higham agreed to act as Hon. Advertising Agent, and Mrs. Ayres Purdie as Hon. Auditor.

Patrons.

H.M. The Queen and H.M. Queen Alexandra were deeply interested in the work from its inception. In acceding to the request of the Committee, Lady Gosford wrote that "H.M. The Queen is graciously pleased to become Patroness of the Star and Garter Building Fund, in which Her Majesty is so interested." The Royal example was speedily followed and a list of distinguished patrons secured.

New Offices.

The machinery was now ready to launch a great appeal, it only remained to secure larger and more central premises than 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, the offices of the Actresses' Franchise League, where the initial work had been done. The late Mr. Louis Duveen generously placed the premises at 21, Old Bond Street at the disposal of the Committee, and with the opening of the new offices in February, 1916, which were beautifully furnished through the kindness of Messrs. Maple, Messrs. Bailey and Mr. Duveen, everything was ready.

Already the pendulum was swinging. The first of a long series Early Entertainments. of entertainments, in the form of a Children's Christmas Party, had taken place at the Hotel Cecil, and early in January Mr. Will Crooks had made a powerful appeal at a Sunday League Concert at the Alhambra. This Concert was the first of many arranged by Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Lady Forbes-Robertson and Lady Wyndham, under the auspices of the National Sunday League, to all of whom grateful thanks are due.

The Red Cross Committee had suggested that £17,000 should be The Appeal. collected before March 31st, 1916, but this sum was far surpassed by that date. On the publication of Mr. Bernard Partridge's beautiful cartoon "Haven," and the appearance of Mr. John Galsworthy's touching appeal in the Sunday "Observer," of March 19th, money poured in, over £3,000 in cheques and postal orders being received on the morning of March 20th.

A "Lady-Day" Appeal was organised, including a great Public Meeting at the Palace Theatre, kindly lent by Sir (then Mr.) Alfred Butt. Schools throughout the country were approached by Lady Forbes-Robertson, afterwards resulting in a collection of £10,347 6s. 11d. of which the Girls' Patriotic Union contributed £5,250.

One of the earliest offers of help came from the County of Warwick, and resulted in the collection of £6,750 in that County, under the direction of Lady Willoughby de Broke.

A South African 6d. Fund was launched under the patronage of H.E. Viscountess Buxton, and other distinguished ladies, Miss Agnes Harsant and Miss Violet Bradfield, both of Rondebosch, undertaking the arduous duties of Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary respectively. A splendid total of £10,655 8s. 4d. crowned their efforts.

British South American women also made a notable addition to the Fund, the amount collected being £2,487 15s. The thanks of the Committee are due to Mrs. Ireland for her devoted work as Hon. Secretary.

Many of the leading cities and towns also gave valuable help at an early stage of the work, including Birmingham, Sheffield and Manchester.

Publicity and Entertainments Committees (see page 13) had Sub-Committees. already been formed, and at a later stage an Overseas Committee (see page 13) was added, under the Chairmanship of Lady Fulton, on which the ladies and gentlemen, whose names are mentioned, did valuable work. The appeal of this Committee resulted in the splendid total of £22,750 for the building of a block of thirty-five rooms, of which six were endowed.

Fêtes were arranged by kind friends at home and abroad, and Fêtes. special mention may be made of one arranged by Lady Barrington, and another by Mrs. Scott and a committee of ladies at historic Battle Abbey, resulting in each case in over £1,000. A glance at the appended list of rooms to be built and endowed will show how

Some of the
Contributors

magnificently women in all parts of the Empire assumed the privilege of providing this Home for permanently disabled men. Native women joined in the offering, and a list of contributors forwarded from Penang, Straits Settlements, contains handsome sums opposite names such as Mrs. Khaw Sum Bee, Mrs. Heah Swee Lee and Mrs. Lim Hin Leong. Poor women with husbands, sons and brothers at the Front sent stamps for 3*d.* or 6*d.*—generally anonymously—sometimes as thankofferings, sometimes as memorials, but always with true sympathy and tender solicitude.

Though the Home was intended to be a gift from the *Women* of the Empire, the co-operation and help of men was welcomed, and an important contribution was the gift of Mr. P. F. Heybourn of 1,000 guineas, the winnings of his horse "Vermouth" in the Race Course Association Steeplechase at Gatwick in 1916.

Notable
Entertain-
ments.

Actors and actresses, authors and artists, singers and instrumentalists generously gave their services on many occasions—it is impossible to mention all—but perhaps mention may be made of the great Matinee at the Coliseum, kindly lent by Sir (then Mr.) Oswald Stoll, in June, 1916, when "The Admirable Crichton," organised by Miss Lillah McCarthy, was presented by a Star cast. Much valuable help was received from the author, Sir James Barrie, and the sale of portraits of Miss Lillah McCarthy, Miss Gladys Cooper and Miss Lily Elsie, presented by Sir (then Mr.) John Lavery, Mr. Philip Laszlo and Mr. Shannon, respectively, helped to bring the grand total realized by this performance to over £5,000. Other notable entertainments were:

"The Mollusc," presented by Miss Mary Moore (Lady Wyndham) at the Criterion.

Grosvenor House Concert, organised by Lady Forbes-Robertson, and attended by H.M. Queen Alexandra.

Sunderland House Concert, organised by Mrs. Colefax.

A "Poet's Reading," organised by Miss Elizabeth Asquith.

An Auction Sale and War Charities Revue, at the Hotel Cecil, the latter arranged by Miss Gertrude Kingston.

A successful "Good Luck" Fair, organised by the Overseas Committee.

A series of Galas, arranged by the Ladies of the Southern Counties Amateur Swimming Association.

A large Meeting at Richmond, organised by Lady Cave.

Miss Lily Elsie devoted to the Fund the entire proceeds of her engagement in the title rôle of Mavourneen at His Majesty's Theatre, her gift representing the handsome sum of £1,032.

New Appeal.

The appeal which had been made for £50,000 in the first place, for building only, was now raised to £100,000, to cover equipment and to present the Home complete for habitation. With the increase in the cost of all buildings this sum had to be correspondingly increased, and, in addition, a further sum of £50,000 was asked for, to include

the endowment of the large ward (£40,000) and to provide a "Compassionate Fund" (£10,000) for extra comforts for the men, to bring their relatives to visit them, and to provide for burial amongst their own kith and kin.

On November 16th, 1916, the British Women's Hospital Committee and members of the British Red Cross (Star and Garter) Committee were received by H.M. The Queen at Buckingham Palace, and the total collection to date, amounting to £150,000, was handed to Her Majesty by the Hon. Treasurer, Lady Cowdray; the Queen, in turn, presented the money to Sir William Lever (now Lord Leverhulme), Hon. Treasurer of the Star and Garter Hospital. Gift to the Queen.

In recognition of the gift Viscountess Cowdray and Miss May Whitty were invited to join the British Red Cross Star and Garter Committee, as representatives of the subscribers to the Building Fund through the British Women's Hospital Committee.

The building of the new Home has been delayed owing to war conditions, but operations have now been resumed, and are being rapidly pushed forward under the direction of the Architect, Mr. Edwin Cooper, F.R.I.B.A., to whom grateful thanks are due for the fine plans he has prepared and the great amount of work and skill he has voluntarily given to the undertaking. In addition, a seaside Star and Garter Home has been acquired at Sandgate, Kent, where the men will go from time to time for change of scene and air. The house stands in 27 acres of ground, with easy access to the sea beach, and at the present time (December, 1920) while the Home at Richmond is in course of erection, temporary arrangements have been made for the accommodation of all the men at Sandgate, where they are now comfortably housed. The Seaside Home will be, in all respects, a branch of the parent Home at Richmond, bearing the same name and under the same management. A number of donors have already intimated that they are willing to transfer sums contributed for the building and endowment of rooms to the Star and Garter, Sandgate. New Buildings.

The total sum contributed for the Building and Endowment of the Star and Garter Homes, through the British Women's Hospital Committee, amounts to the truly magnificent total of £223,947 14s. 2d. (see Balance Sheet, page 8). The total expenses incurred in collecting this sum only amounted to £4,679 17s. 10d. Grand total.

BRITISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL. STAR AND GARTER BUILDING AND ENDOWMENT FUND.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Period 6th August, 1915, to 31st December, 1919.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
BUILDING					
To Donations ...	...	89,717 3 0	By Salaries ...	...	1,239 10 7
" Collections ...	...	44,025 13 11	" Office Expenses ...	...	329 11 6
" Collecting Books ...	...	1,969 6 0	" Petty Cash ...	...	111 10 10
" " Boxes ...	...	574 19 7	" Printing and Stationery ...	...	562 12 10
" " Cards ...	...	928 10 3	" Postage and Telephone ...	...	231 8 9
" Schools and Colleges ...	...	10,347 6 11	" Travelling and Sundries ...	...	23 13 9
" Entertainments ...	...	24,240 12 8	" Insurance ...	...	11 10 3
" Edith Cavell Memorial ...	...	...	" Bank Charges ...	...	4 7 2
Room ...	...	217 17 4	" Advertisements ...	...	1,442 19 6
" Sale of Goods and Posters ...	...	1,786 15 7	" Entertainments ...	...	541 15 3
" Profit on Realisation of ...	...	...	" Boxes and Books for Collections ...	...	43 12 11
" Securities ...	...	181 6 1	" Badges ...	...	2 10 0
" Interest ...	...	12,792 8 11	" Purchase of Goods for Sale ...	...	29 14 6
" Miscellaneous ...	...	30 8 7	" Honorarium to Hon. Auditor ...	...	105 0 0
		<u>186,812 8 10</u>			<u>4,679 17 10</u>
ENDOWMENT					
" Donations for 13 Rooms at ...	...	26,000 0 0	" Claim against the Inland Revenue for ...	...	*874 7 5
" £2,000 each ...	...	...	" Income Tax deductions ...	...	...
" Donations for 7 Beds at ...	...	7,000 0 0	" Balance (Cash and Securities) transferred ...	...	...
" £1,000 each ...	...	2,733 14 0	" to the British Red Cross Society, Star ...	...	...
" Sundry Donations ...	...	...	" and Garter Committee :	...	...
" Profit on Realisation of ...	...	...	Building Fund ...	...	131,258 3 7
" Securities ...	...	151 1 9	Endowment Fund ...	£37,135 5 4	...
" Interest ...	...	1,250 9 7	Allocation ...	40,000 0 0	...
		<u>37,135 5 4</u>	Compassionate Fund Allocation ...	...	77,135 5 4
					<u>10,000 0 0</u>
					<u>£223,947 14 2</u>

I have audited the above Statement of Receipts and Payments with the Books, Accounts and Vouchers and certify it to be correct.

HAMPDEN HOUSE,
84, KINGSWAY, W.C. 2.
December 20th, 1920.

ETHEL AYRES PURDIE, F.L.A.A., Hon. Auditor,
Certified Accountant.

NOTE.—The Committee record, with much pleasure, their gratitude to the Burroughs Adding Machine Co., for the use of one of their machines during the period of this Collection.

* This sum has subsequently been paid to the B.R.C.S.

ENDOWMENT ACCOUNT, STAR AND GARTER HOME.

LARGE WARD ENDOWED £40,000.

Donors: The British Women's Hospital Committee.

LIST OF ROOMS ENDOWED (£2,000 PER ROOM).

<i>Donors.</i>	<i>No. of Rooms.</i>
Argentine, Women of the	1
Ceylon, Women of	1
Cowdray, Viscount and Viscountess	1
Warwick, County of	3
Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association	1
Overseas Block:—	
Australian Memorial	1
Daughters of the British Empire	1
East Africa	2
Sweden	1
Tientsin	1
	<hr/>
	13

LIST OF BEDS ENDOWED (£1,000 PER BED).

<i>Donors.</i>	<i>No. of Beds.</i>
Comyn, W. Leslie, Esq.	1
Geake, Mr. and Mrs. J. Burnet	1
Kenilworth (per Mrs. Chandler)	1
Low, Miss	1
Moyna, Mrs.	1
Reid, Mrs.	1
Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association	1
	<hr/>
	7

LIST OF ROOMS BUILT AND EQUIPPED (£250 PER ROOM).

<i>Donors.</i>	<i>No. of Rooms.</i>
Small Ward—Birmingham, City of	
Wings and Blocks of Rooms:—	
Girls' Patriotic Union	14
Overseas Wing—	
Australian Memorial	1
Bulawayo, Eveline High School	1
Calcutta	1
Calcutta, H. V. MacCaw, Esq.	1
Ceylon Ladies' Fund (in memory of Colin Cowper Mee)	1
Ceylon, Women of	1
Costa Rica	1
East Africa	2

<i>Donors.</i>	<i>No. of Rooms.</i>
Imperial Order, Daughters of the British Empire, Illinois, U.S.A. :	
Gladstone, Alfred and Guelph Chapters ...	1
Windsor, Lloyd George and Lady Aberdeen Chapters ...	1
Balmoral, Osborne and Canterbury Chapters ...	1
Prince of Wales and Local Chapters ...	1
Jamaica ...	1
Limon ...	1
Madras ...	2
Nigeria:—	
Abeokuta ...	1
Calabar ...	1
Lagos ...	1
Northern Provinces ...	1
Southern „ ...	1
Norway ...	1
Overseas Committee ...	2
Panama ...	1
Rajputana ...	2
Ranchi ...	1
Rangoon ...	1
Shanghai ...	2
Sweden ...	1
Tasmania ...	1
Tientsin ...	1
	35
Singapore, Women of ...	11
South Africa, Women of ...	18

Single Rooms—

Actresses' Franchise League ...	1
Akyab, Contributors in ...	1
Alvechurch, Beoley and District ...	2
Army Pay Department, Women of ...	1
Barrington, per Viscountess ...	4
Birmingham, City of ...	8
Boret, per Mrs. ...	1
British North Borneo War Relief Fund ...	1
British Red Cross Society, Bucks Branch ...	1
„ „ „ „ Chesterfield Division ...	1
„ „ „ „ Jersey Branch ...	2
British Women's Patriotic League (Central) ...	2
„ „ „ „ Valparaiso ...	8
„ „ „ „ Woking Branch ...	1
British Women's Temperance Association, Keighley ...	1
British South American Women ...	8
Burges, per Ven. Archdeacon, Richmond, Natal ...	1
Byfleet and Pyrford ...	1
Carlisle, Women of ...	3
Campbell, Mrs. ...	1
Cheltenham Collection ...	1
Collins, Miss ...	1
Cowdray, Viscount and Viscountess ...	1
Cross, Mrs. ...	1
Cunliffe, Mrs. Foster ...	1
Darjeeling, per Mrs. J. Kerr ...	1
Dempster, Miss ...	1

<i>Donors.</i>						<i>No. of Rooms.</i>
Domestic Servants' Insurance Society	...	...	...	...	...	1
Edith Cavell Memorial	...	...	...	...	...	1
Eton and Windsor Collection	...	...	...	...	...	3
Faber, R. B., Esq.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fletcher, Mrs.	...	...	...	...	...	1
de Fonseka, E. C., Esq., Ceylon	...	...	...	...	...	1
Godolphin and Latymer School, Hammersmith	...	...	...	...	...	1
Halifax (Yorks.) and District, Women of	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hall, Miss Annie	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hardy, Mrs. Fredk.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Head, Ernest, Esq.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hendon Collection	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hine, Mrs.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Holman-Hunt, per Mrs.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hongkong War Charities	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hopkinson, Hon. Mrs.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hotblack, Mrs.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Isaac, Mrs.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Jackson, Mrs. Ward	...	...	...	...	...	1
Kedah, Inhabitants of	...	...	...	...	...	1
Kemble, Mrs.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Kerr, Mrs. Amy	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ladies' Automobile Club	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lancaster, The People of	...	...	...	...	...	2
League of Honour	...	...	...	...	...	1
Liberal Women's Suffrage Union	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lincoln, per Miss	...	...	...	...	...	1
Loring, Mrs. Walter	...	...	...	...	...	1
Loring, Mrs. William	...	...	...	...	...	1
Maidenhead Collection	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malaya, Women of	...	...	...	...	...	2
Metropolitan Telephone Exchanges, Women of the	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mullens, Mr. and Mrs. J. A.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Navy League	...	...	...	...	...	1
Osborne, Mrs. J. Kerr	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paignton, Devon, The People of	...	...	...	...	...	1
Parker of Waddington, Lady	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paton, Mrs.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Peek, per Lady, from Friends in St. Louis, U.S.A.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Peking, Ladies of, per Lady Jordon	...	...	...	...	...	1
Penang, Women of	...	...	...	...	...	2
Plymouth	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pretoria, Women of	...	...	...	...	...	2
Queenswood School, Clapham Park	...	...	...	...	...	1
Reading	...	...	...	...	...	1
Romford High School for Girls...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scott, per Mrs. (Battle Abbey Fête)	...	...	...	...	...	4
Silver Thimble Fund	...	...	...	...	...	1
Southern Counties Amateur Swimming Association, Ladies of	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tudor Hall School, Chislehurst	...	...	...	...	...	1
Union Jack Committee, Maryport	...	...	...	...	...	1
Upton, Major and Mrs.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wallington and Carshalton	...	...	...	...	...	1
Warwick, County of	...	...	...	...	...	3
West, Mrs. J. D.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wight, Isle of	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wolverhampton, Women of	...	...	...	...	...	1

<i>Donors.</i>	<i>No. of Rooms.</i>			
Women's Emergency Corps, Bournemouth	I
Women's Institute	I
Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association	I
Wycombe Abbey School	I
Yokohama, British Women of	I
				<hr/> 209

MISCELLANEOUS GIFTS.

Donors:—

Southern Counties Amateur Swimming Association, Ladies of	...	Lift
Fox, Mrs. Willie		
Imperial Lodge, M.M.M.		
League of Honour		
Lintorn-Orman, Mrs.		
Macclesfield High School for Girls		
Moss, Mr. and Mrs.		
Municipal High School for Girls, Huddersfield		
The Brocklebank Family	...	Operating Theatre.
St. Winifred's Guild, Eastbourne	...	X-Ray Room.
League of Honour	...	1 Electric Radium Bath.
Romford County High School	...	2 Electric Radium Baths.
Domestic Servants' Insurance Society	...	2 " " "
Women's League of Service, Mitcham	...	Furnishing Visitors' Room.
Hind, per Capt. A. M.	...	Library Bookcase and Books.
Women of Singapore	...	Chapel Furnishings.
Randolph, Mrs.	...	Garden Seats.
"A. S."		
Ferguson, Major.		
Mashonaland, Central Fund.	...	Options on Rooms, or Named Gifts.
Mason, Miss E.		
Sherborne Girls' School.		
Trinidad, Girls of.		

MEMBERS OF THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE
LEAGUE IN 1915.

President—Lady Forbes-Robertson.

Joint Hon. Treasurers—Miss Lena Ashwell and Miss Edyth Olive.

Hon. Secretary—Miss Nina Boucicault.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Miss Adeline Bourne.

Miss Inez Bensusan.	Miss Eva Moore.
Miss Compton.	Miss Mary Moore.
Mrs. James Fagan.	Mrs. Madeleine Lucette Ryley.
Miss Gertrude Kingston.	Miss Blanche Stanley.
Miss Auriol Lee.	Miss Janette Steer.
Miss Winifred Mayo.	Miss May Whitty.
Miss Decima Moore.	



LADY FORBES-ROBERTSON, *President.*



DAME MAY WHITTY, D.B.E., *Chairman.*

PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Viscountess Cowdray (*Chairman*).
Miss Asquith.
Lady Fulton.

Mr. C. F. Higham.
Mrs. Edward Hulton.

ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE.

Dame May Whitty, D.B.E. (*Chairman*).
Miss Asquith.
Miss Bensusan.
Miss Boucicault.
Miss Braithwaite.
The Viscountess Cowdray.

The Hon. Mrs. Henry McLaren.
Miss Decima Moore.
Miss Eva Moore.
Miss Magdalen Ponsonby.
Lady Wyndham.

OVERSEAS COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Lady Fulton.

Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. C. H. Campbell.

Hon. Secretary—Mr. J. C. B. Richardson
(who was succeeded at a later stage by Sir Leslie Porter, K.C.S.I.).

Mrs. Benson.
Lady Carlyle.
Lady Mills.

Miss McKinley Osborne.
Mrs. J. F. Payne.
Mrs. Gershom Stewart.

SECTION II.

THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

THE British Women's Hospital Committee, realising that the appeal for the Star and Garter had become a world-wide one, and knowing that many promises still remained to come to maturity, decided to fill in the period of waiting by helping on another good cause, and they agreed to support a women's organisation, the Scottish Women's Hospitals, which were doing such magnificent work, from a humane as from an international point of view, in the distressed countries of Southern Europe. An urgent appeal for Relief Units for the Servian Division of the Russian Army operating in Roumania had just been received, and on November 22nd, 1916, the British Women's Hospital Committee issued their appeal. This was followed by a Public Meeting held at the Palace Theatre on December 12th, at which Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson presided, and the speakers included Lady Frances Balfour, Mr. Ben Tillett, Father Nicolai Velimirovic, Miss Compton and Mr. Pett Ridge. The National Anthem was sung by Madame Clara Butt.

Origin.

The most outstanding feature of the Committee's appeal for the Scottish Women's Hospitals was the Matinee of "The Passing of the Third Floor Back" at the Coliseum, on March 23rd, 1917, when Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson appeared in his original part of "The Stranger," after an absence of three years from the stage. Enthusiasm was so great that Sir Johnston agreed to the suggestion that the British Women's Hospital Committee should undertake a short season for the Scottish Women's Hospitals and other War Charities. The Playhouse was secured for three weeks. The Viscountess Cowdray assumed personal responsibility as guarantor, and the play had a most successful run, being visited by H.M. The Queen, accompanied by younger members of the Royal Family, H.M. Queen Alexandra and the Princess Royal. Sir Johnston was supported by a Star cast, including Miss Gertrude Elliott (Lady Forbes-Robertson), Miss Winifred Emery, Dame May Whitty, Mr. Ben Webster and Mr. C. V. France. All the artists most generously gave their services. The play was afterwards removed to the Queen's Theatre, where, as Sir Johnston was feeling the strain of daily performances, Mr. Ben Webster took up his part. The daughter of the author, Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, filled Lady Forbes-Robertson's part on the latter leaving the cast to fulfil another engagement. A flying matinee was also given at Brighton, and a special matinee was arranged for nurses and wounded men from London hospitals, tea and strawberries being provided for the guests by the Hon. Treasurer, Lady Cowdray.

As a result, the Committee were able to hand over £500 to the Lord Roberts Memorial Fund and £500 to the Hampstead General Hospital, in addition to the handsome sum realised for their own work. Mr. Ambrose McEvoy painted a portrait of Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson in the character of "The Stranger," and presented it to the Coliseum Matinee Committee. It realised 500 guineas.

The Hon. Mrs. Henry McLaren, Miss Elizabeth Asquith and Miss Magdalen Ponsonby, who had done yeoman service as members of the Entertainments Committee, were invited to join the Advisory Committee during this appeal, and Miss Asquith arranged a second "Poets' Reading," at which no fewer than eleven poets read extracts from their works.

As a result of these appeals, the Committee collected the sum of £16,301 os. 3d. (See Balance Sheet, page 15.)

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period from 22nd November, 1916, to 16th October, 1919.

December 20th, 1920.

SECTION III.

THE NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

Chair :

Dame MAY WHITTY, D.B.E.

Joint Hon. Treasurers :

The Viscountess COWDRAY.

Miss FELLOWES ROBINSON.

Hon. Secretary :

Miss LILIAN BRAITHWAITE.

Advisory Committee :

Mrs. ALDERTON.
 WINIFRED, Countess of ARRAN.
 Miss INEZ BENSUSAN.
 H.H. Princess BIBESCO.
 Miss COMPTON.
 Mrs. LOUIS DUVEEN.

Mrs. LIONEL HARRIS, M.B.E.
 Mrs. MARTIN HARVEY.
 Lady KENT.
 The Hon. Mrs. HENRY McLAREN.
 Miss DECIMA MOORE.
 Miss EVA MOORE.

Miss BLANCHE STANLEY.

"Tribute" Fund Committee :

The Viscountess COWDRAY (*Chairman*).
 WINIFRED, Countess of ARRAN.
 Miss LILIAN BRAITHWAITE.
 Dame SIDNEY BROWNE, G.B.E., R.R.C.
 Mrs. LOUIS DUVEEN.
 Miss GIBSON.

Miss HALDANE.
 Miss HOGG, C.B.E.
 Miss MONTGOMERY.
 Lady ROTHSCHILD.
 Dame SARAH SWIFT, G.B.E., R.R.C.
 Dame MAY WHITTY, D.B.E.

Bankers :

LONDON COUNTY, WESTMINSTER & PARR'S.

Hon. Auditor :

Mrs. AYRES PURDIE.

Secretary :

Mrs. SMEATON DOUGLAS.

At the beginning of 1915 it was realised by many of the heads of the Nursing Profession in London and the Provinces that the work of the war would entail the upheaval of all the existing hospital and nursing institutions, and that some steps must at once be taken to organise a scheme which would be capable, not only of dealing on democratic lines with this emergency, but also of coping with the future needs of the Profession.



THE VISCOUNTESS COWDRAY, *Hon. Treasurer.*



MISS DORA FELLOWES-ROBINSON, *Joint Hon. Treasurer.*

It was highly desirable that the work of reorganising the Nursing Profession should be done by the nurses themselves, with the aid of those who by experience and up-to-date knowledge had the interests of the nurses at heart.

Consequently the College of Nursing was formed under The College Sir Arthur Stanley as Chairman with a representative Council of Nursing. consisting of:—

20 Members of the Nursing Profession.

10 Doctors.

3 Laymen.

Scottish and Irish Boards were established and are represented on the Council.

At this stage the Council approached the British Women's Hospital Committee, and invited their help to collect the funds necessary for the Endowment of the College, and for the creation of a Benevolent or "Tribute" Fund for the relief of individual nurses, during sickness and disablement. The war was levying a severe toll upon the health of women of all ranks of the Nursing Profession, at home and abroad, and owing to the disgraceful economic conditions prevailing in the profession, numbers of those who broke down were practically destitute. The British Women's Hospital Committee gladly undertook what seemed to them great work for a most worthy body of women, who were themselves too busy to move in the matter.

The Appeal appeared in the leading papers of October 22nd, 1917. The Appeal Appreciative letters were received from Sir Douglas Haig and others (see page 26). Posters were specially designed by Mr. Spenser Pryce and Mr. Bernard Partridge, the latter appearing in *Punch*. Early in this work several new members were added to the Committee:—Lady Kent, Lady Fulton, Mrs. Lionel Harris, M.B.E., and Mrs. Martin Harvey, while Lady Hulton joined the Entertainments Committee. Miss Lilian Braithwaite was elected Hon. Secretary in succession to Miss Nina Boucicault, resigned. Messrs. Gieve had taken the premises at 21, Old Bond Street, but they most generously allowed the Committee to continue to occupy them as offices until October, 1918, when the Fund was removed to its present headquarters, 32, North Audley Street, which were kindly lent by Messrs. John D. Wood for the first few months.

Following precedent, a number of entertainments were success- Entertain- fully organised in support of the appeal, the first of these being the ments. "Tableaux of Angels" at the Palace Theatre. The Tableaux were arranged by Miss Gertrude Kingston, and a Choir and Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Terry, of Westminster Cathedral, supplied suitable music.

An instrumental concert at the Queen's Hall by the "Strolling Players," under the baton of Mr. Joseph Ivimey, with Miss Marguerite Nielka and Mr. Albert Sammons as Soloists, and a later concert held at the same place, at which many well-known artists appeared, including Madame D'Alvarez and Miss Adela Verne, helped to make

the work known. The latter was attended by H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, and nurses from the leading London hospitals formed a Guard of Honour for Her Royal Highness. Much valuable help was given by Lady Kent in the arrangement of this concert.

The Committee greatly appreciated the generosity of Madame Kirkby Lunn in devoting the proceeds of one of her Recitals at the Æolian Hall to the Fund.

Sir Johnston and Lady Forbes-Robertson, in response to requests from Derby and Manchester, very kindly agreed to give matinees of "The Passing of the Third Floor Back" in these places, and Sir Johnston was again generously supported by a Star Cast, and handsome sums were realised. Warm thanks are due to Mr. Wyndham, who lent the Theatre Royal, Manchester, Mr. Garnham, who lent the Hippodrome, Derby, to Mrs. Aylmer Hall and Mrs. Preston Jones, Derby, who undertook the arrangements locally, and to all who entertained the artists so hospitably. Miss Dora Fellowes-Robinson and Miss Ethel Griffies managed the performances in the same excellent way as they had done during the London season, at an earlier stage of the work.

In June, 1918, Miss Marie Lohr kindly lent the Globe Theatre for a matinee. A delightful programme was submitted, including "Objets d'Art" arranged by Lady Lowther, a short sketch by the French Players, and individual items by well known artists.

To mark the cessation of hostilities in November, 1918, and the victory of the Allied Arms, Lady Hulton and Miss May Beeman organised a great Ball at the Albert Hall, the expenses of which were most generously defrayed by the proprietors of the *Daily Sketch*. As a result, the magnificent sum of £16,520 was handed over to the Fund. When it is considered that the Ball took place only sixteen days after the signing of the Armistice, the result represents a remarkable achievement on the part of the organisers. So great was the success that the proprietors of the *Daily Sketch* extended their generous offer to cover the expenses of a similar Ball in Manchester, which was held in January, 1919, and which realised £3,848.

Highly successful Bazaars were organised by leading ladies in Leeds, Manchester and Halifax, resulting in £2,400 (of which £250 was contributed to headquarters, the remainder being retained locally) £6,529 and £1,704 respectively, while the Nurses' Bazaar at Devonshire House, in May, 1919, organised by Miss May Beeman, realised £6,565. Fourteen of the principal London Hospitals undertook stalls, and the Fete was visited by H.M. Queen Alexandra on the opening day.

In July, 1918 and again in June, 1919, H.M. The King, who had sent a contribution of £100 at an earlier stage of the work, graciously lent the garden of St. James's Palace, and very successful Garden Parties were arranged. A novel feature of these entertainments was a series of beautiful friezes on the Terrace, arranged by Miss Lily Brayton, Miss Lillah McCarthy, Viscountess Stopford and others.

The Garden Party in 1918 was attended by H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught and H.R.H. Princess Patricia.

Appeals under distinguished local patronage were issued in a Local number of counties and towns. The total returns to date are as Appeals follows:

					£ s. d.		
ABERDEEN :							
County Collection	...	...	...	...	1,068	5	6
per Miss Hill	...	...	...	...	5	9	0
„ Mrs. Martin Harvey	...	...	...	...	56	10	0
„ Miss Emslie	...	...	...	...	72	9	0
„ Ladies' Needlework Guild	...	...	...	...	135	2	0
					<u>£1,337 15 6</u>		
CORNWALL					£320	14	11
DUNDEE					£85	0	0
EAST LANCASHIRE					£10,000	0	0
(also retained for Local Centre)					£3,315	0	0
					£ s. d.		
NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM :							
per Newcastle-on-Tyne Collection	...	...	...	...	2,242	6	0
„ Miss Macleod, Gosforth	...	...	...	...	85	0	0
„ Miss Brown, Newcastle-on-Tyne	...	...	...	...	205	8	6
„ „ „	...	...	...	...	3	3	0
„ Miss Sandifer, Newcastle-on-Tyne	...	...	...	...	35	0	0
					<u>£2,570 17 6</u>		
NORWICH					£86	15	0
YORKSHIRE :					£ s. d.		
per Centre at Leeds	...	...	...	...	1,230	1	0
„ Halifax	...	...	...	...	1,704	9	6
„ Wakefield	...	...	...	...	307	11	11
„ Hull	...	...	...	...	285	0	0
					<u>£3,527 2 5</u>		

Meanwhile the College of Nursing had been growing from infancy to vigorous youth. Centres had been established in :

Aberdeen	Edinburgh	Norfolk and Norwich
Birmingham	Glasgow	Northumberland & Durham
Brighton and Hove	Leicester	Nottingham
Bristol	Lincoln	Plymouth
Cambridge	Liverpool	Sheffield
Cornwall	London	Yorkshire
Derby	Manchester	

The College
and its
Educational
Work.

In most cases, as soon as a Centre was established, its members most generously undertook some effort for the Nation's Fund for Nurses. These efforts are still going on, and we hope they will be continued under the new permanent Committee which has now been formed, so that the College and Tribute Fund may fulfil their full measure of usefulness.

The following sums have been forwarded through Local Centres :

					£	s.	d.
DERBY :							
per Miss Haines ...	...	...	...	...	3	5	0
„ Miss Bury ...	...	...	...	...	150	0	0
					<u>£153</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
LEICESTER :							
per Miss Masters ...	...	...	...	...	£25	0	0
LIVERPOOL :							
per Miss Bagnall ...	...	...	...	...	£21	12	0
PLYMOUTH :							
per Miss Mackay...	...	...	...	...	£80	0	0
SHEFFIELD :							
per Miss Davey ...	...	...	...	...	£59	3	0

Contributions from other members include :

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE :							
per Miss Seymour Yapp (one day's salary of Nurses at Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary) ...	...	...	...	...	£21	4	6

Valuable assistance was given by the following Centres in connection with the arrangement of Meetings for Mrs. Martin Harvey, and substantial sums were realised :

Birmingham.	Glasgow.
Brighton.	Leicester.
Bristol.	Liverpool.
Edinburgh.	

State
Registration.

Immediately upon the establishment of the College, a Bill was drafted for the State Registration of Nurses, and a steady effort was made to arrive at an agreement with the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. After the failure of negotiations for this purpose, the Minister of Health pledged the Government to introduce its own Bill for the State Registration of Nurses at the earliest opportunity, and we are glad to record that the Minister's promise has been redeemed, and State Registration has now been secured. Important, however, as State Registration undoubtedly is for the betterment of the nursing profession, the College programme

is planned upon ampler lines and contemplates the use of all efforts to standardise the education of nurses by a three years' general training, a uniform curriculum and one portal examination.

Training Schools are bringing their curriculum into line with Scholarships. the standards laid down by the College, and in many cases hospital committees have adjusted their conditions so that probationers in training may receive a broader professional training. Scholarships have been established to enable trained nurses to qualify as expert teachers of nursing subjects, and post-graduate lectures are now given throughout the country, so that nurses may have every encouragement to assist their education. For the Session 1918-1919 three scholarships for Sister-Tutors were offered at King's College for Women, University of London, and for 1919-1920 the number has been increased to eight. These Scholarships were the subject of eager competition. The Committee acknowledge with gratitude two sums of £2,500 each presented by the Viscountess Cowdray for the endowment of Scholarships for the Counties of Aberdeen and Sussex, and also £1,200, part proceeds of the Halifax Bazaar, for the endowment of a "Halifax Scholarship."

Grants are being made to a certain number of members of the College who desire to qualify as midwives, but who are unable to meet the cost of the extra training. Grants to Members.

Free legal advice is given to members of the College, and a considerable number of nurses have availed themselves of the privilege. Legal Advice.

The establishment of an "Appointments and Enquiry Bureau" on the cessation of hostilities has proved most helpful in assisting members to find suitable appointments and to resettle into civil life. Appointments and Enquiry Bureau.

Considerable progress has been made towards improving both the conditions and salaries of nurses, and a Committee of Enquiry set up by the College has resulted in a considerable rise in salaries. Salaries and Conditions. Hospital Boards began to look into matters, and now we hear of hospitals where the work of sweeping and polishing is entirely delegated to housemaids, and nurses are able to give all their time to learning and practising their profession; where they have three hours off duty each day and one day regularly each week, and, greatest joy of all, they know their days off, and can arrange accordingly. One is not surprised to learn from the Matron of such a hospital that the health of her nurses is greatly improved.

With this excellent record of work accomplished in a comparatively short space of time, it is not surprising that the College membership now numbers nearly 20,000, and that it is the largest and most powerful organisation of nurses in the country. College Membership.

Viscount and Viscountess Cowdray have intimated their intention of presenting a Nurses' Club to the College and 20, Cavendish Square, until recently the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Asquith, has been purchased by them for this purpose. Nurses' Club

But the Nation's Fund for Nurses has another object besides the Tribute Fund.

endowment of the College of Nursing, with its constructive policy. A "Tribute," or Benevolent Fund was established as part of the College scheme, to help individual nurses in sickness. The benefits are not confined to members of the College, but are extended to all fully trained nurses.

Adminis-
tering
Committee.

Temporary
Grants.

A special Committee, consisting of six members nominated by the Council of the College of Nursing, and six by the British Women's Hospital Committee, undertook the work of administration. The Viscountess Cowdray was appointed Chairman. (See page 16.) So urgent was the need that the Tribute Fund Committee were obliged to undertake the disbursement of funds at an early stage of the work. On an average, between sixty and seventy grants are made weekly, in sums ranging from 10s. upwards. Nurses are assisted in their own homes by maintenance grants, or they are sent to Spas, Sanatoria, Nursing, Mental or Convalescent Homes, in accordance with their necessities. A few months of illness sweeps away the savings of years, and numbers of these women are faced with months, and perhaps years, of suffering, with absolutely no income, or at best, 5s. per week Disablement Grant from the National Health Insurance. It becomes more and more apparent that a very large capital sum will be required to meet the claims upon this portion of the Fund, and the Committee acknowledge with much gratitude a grant of £50,000 made by the British Red Cross Society.

A collection amounting to over £10,000 was made in Ireland for the Tribute Fund, under an influential Committee, and the interest of this sum is now being administered in Ireland for the benefit of Irish nurses.

The Trustees administering the Welsford Nurses' Relief Fund, for the relief of nurses in the Liverpool District, are also co-operating with the Nation's Fund for Nurses, so as to link up their work with the work of the National Fund.

Annuities.

Endowed annuities for those applicants who will never be able to work again will greatly increase the usefulness of the Tribute Fund, but up to the present time, the Committee have not been in a position to set aside a capital sum for this purpose. The Committee have great pleasure in acknowledging the following endowed gifts, and they make an earnest appeal for further endowed pensions, or promises of annual payments of 5s., 10s., or £1 per week, for chronic cases :

£2,200 from the Viscountess Cowdray, to endow two "Cowdray Pensions" of £1 per week.

£500 from the Lady Denman, to endow the "Denman Pension."

£504 9s. 6d., part proceeds of the Halifax Bazaar, to endow the "Halifax Annuity."

£2,767 8s. 8d. from the Women's Emergency Corps, for the endowment of three annuities, to be called "The Women's Emergency Corps Pensions." Also

£50 from Lady Kent, to cover a weekly payment for an individual case for one year.

In connection with the work of the Tribute Fund, the Committee Rest Home. owe a very special debt of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Harvey, for undertaking many successful Meetings in aid of the Fund, during the course of Provincial tours. The amount collected in this way exceeds £2,521. With part of this sum, a cottage has been purchased at Bonchurch, Isle of Wight, and presented to the College of Nursing as a Rest Home.

The total collection for the work of the Nation's Fund for Total. Nurses, in its various branches, amounts to £148,915 3s. 5d.

(Signed) MAY WHITTY, *Chairman.*
A. COWDRAY, *Hon. Treasurer.*

NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 6th June, 1917 to 31st December, 1919.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.
To Donations	...	...	12,759	5	0	By Advertisements and Press	...	...	4,214 18 5
" Collections	...	...	4,522	12	4	" Printing and Stationery	...	...	982 9 8
" Collecting Boxes, Cards and Books	...	...	68	12	9	" Salaries and Bonus	...	...	1,192 10 0
" Schools and Colleges	...	...	100	10	10	" Office Expenses	...	...	474 0 0
" Entertainments	...	...	33,505	8	1	" Insurance	...	...	25 15 9
" Sale of Goods	...	...	891	11	1	" Bank Charges	...	...	7 19 9
" Rent (sublet portion of premises)	...	...	30	0	0	" Petty Cash	...	...	161 11 6
" TRIBUTE FUND	...	...	78,401	0	7	" Purchase of Goods for Sale	...	...	22 14 0
" COLLEGE OF NURSING, LIMITED, Endow-	...	...	...	...	...	" Boxes and Books for Collections	...	...	39 7 6
ment and Scholarship Fund	...	...	18,636	2	9	" Entertainments	...	...	966 13 0
						TRIBUTE FUND—	£	s.	d.
						Grants to Nurses in distress	2,144	11	6
						Returned to Ireland for			
						Local Administration	...	10,037	3 9
									12,181 15 3
						COLLEGE OF NURSING, LIMITED—			
						For Endowment	...	35,650	0 0
						For Scholarships	...	556	9 0
									36,206 9 0
						" London Centre, College of Nursing, Ltd.			3,000 0 0
						Petty Cash in Hand	...	...	59,476 3 10
						Cash at Bank—Current Account	...	...	8 7 6
						" Deposit	...	...	7,248 3 5
						" 4 per cent. Funding Loan	...	...	5,350 0 0
						" National War Bonds	...	...	6,800 0 0
						" 4 per cent. Funding Loan (Tribute Fund)	...	...	65 0 0
						VESTED IN TRUSTEES—			17,200 0 0
						British Red Cross Society Grant to			
						Tribute Fund	...	...	50,000 0 0
						Women's Emergency Corps Grant to			
						Tribute Fund for Pensions for Nurses	2,767	8	8
									£148,915 3 5

I have audited the above Statement of Receipts and Payments with the Books, Accounts and Vouchers, and certify it to be correct. I have verified the Cash at Bank and the Securities, including those held in Trust by the Charity Commissioners.

HAMPDEN HOUSE, 84, KINGSWAY, W.C. 2.

December 20th, 1920.

ETHEL AYRES PURDIE, F.L.A.A., Hon. Auditor,
Certified Accountant.

SECTION IV.

THE SUMMING UP.

DURING the course of their work for the Star and Garter, the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the Nation's Fund for Nurses, the Committee have to acknowledge with gratitude the debt they owe to many individual workers. By means of Drawing-room Recitals Miss Ada Moore raised a total sum of £2,358, and as a memorial of her splendid work, and the fact that the British Women's Hospital Committee had its origin in the Actresses' Franchise League, of which Miss Moore is a member, the Committee resolved to build and equip a special room in the Star and Garter Home, bearing the name of the Actresses' Franchise League.

Warmest thanks are due to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Hon. Auditor, and Mr. C. F. Higham, Hon. Advertising Agent, who undertook much arduous work in connection with the duties which they so generously assumed.

The work of the various Funds was efficiently carried out in the early stages by the Hon. Organiser, Miss Adeline Bourne, and by successive Secretaries, Miss Mercer and Miss Musgrave Watson. Mrs. Smeaton Douglas rendered invaluable service, first as Financial Secretary in 1916, and afterwards as Organising Secretary from 1917 to the close of the work of the British Women's Hospital Committee. Excellent support was given by members of the Staff, and it was entirely due to much devoted work voluntarily given by ladies who sympathised with its objects, that the Committee were able to carry on with a very small permanent Staff. We would ask all to accept our most grateful thanks, particularly mentioning those who helped regularly over a considerable period of time, namely : Miss Bernheim, Miss Blendell, Mrs. Braithwaite, Mrs. Buchanan, Mme. da Costa, Mrs. Coster, Miss Cox, Mrs. Harry Creasy, Mrs. Strachan Coutts, Mrs. Frank Dawes, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Egan, Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. Hodge, Miss Holland, Miss Hunter-Jones, Mrs. Lintorn-Orman, Miss Lowe, Mrs. McKenzie, Mrs. Patrick, Mrs. Pennell Tate, and Baroness de Ropp, whose death was much deplored by all.

From the early days of the Star and Garter collection, when Press. Mrs. Colefax organised the Press work so successfully, and enlisted the generous help of eminent literary men, editors and correspondents, the Committee have received invaluable support and unfailing courtesy from members of the Press, which they gratefully acknowledge.

In conclusion, the gratifying results achieved would have been impossible but for the enthusiastic co-operation and industry of all members of the Executive Committee. Of necessity, much of the work fell upon the Officers, and special recognition is due to Dame

The
Chairman
honoured.

May Whitty, Chairman, who gave constant and devoted attention to the work: in acknowledgment of her invaluable services to the Star and Garter Fund and other organisations connected with the War, in January, 1918, she was created a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, receiving the insignia from H.M. The King at Buckingham Palace; to Miss Nina Boucicault and Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Hon. Secretaries, and to Miss Fellowes-Robinson, Joint Hon. Treasurer with the Viscountess Cowdray, all of whom rendered valuable service.

The Committee wish to express special thanks to the Viscountess Cowdray for her untiring work, for careful guidance in financial matters, and for her many munificent gifts.

APPRECIATIVE LETTERS.

Letter to the Hon. Sir ARTHUR STANLEY, G.B.E., C.B., from Field-Marshal LORD HAIG, late *Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France*.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,

BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE.

Your scheme for creating a Fund for Nurses who have lost their health during the War seems to me to be most necessary.

All of us in the Army in France keenly appreciate the splendid work they are doing, often under most trying and dangerous circumstances, and I can confidently say that they have gained the gratitude and admiration of all ranks of the Armies out here.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) D. HAIG.

Letter from the Hon. Sir ARTHUR STANLEY, G.B.E., C.B., to the Chairman of the British Women's Hospital.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.,

6, VERE STREET, W. 1.

Will you convey to your Committee the grateful thanks of the Council of the College of Nursing for their kindness in consenting to raise a Fund to be called "The Nation's Fund for Nurses," which



MISS NINA BOUCICAULT, *Hon. Secretary* 1915-1918.



MISS LILIAN BRAITHWAITE, *Hon. Secretary* 1918-1920.

Fund is intended to provide endowment for the College of Nursing and a Benevolent Fund for individual Nurses themselves.

I am glad that you propose to call the branch of the Fund which deals with individual Nurses "The Tribute Fund," as this really expresses what it is and what it ought to be—a Tribute from the People of England, especially the Women, to the Nurses who have done such glorious work in mitigating the terrible suffering caused by the Great War.

Yours truly,

(Signed) ARTHUR STANLEY,
Chairman, College of Nursing.

Extract from a letter to the Hon. Sir ARTHUR STANLEY, G.B.E., C.B., from Surgeon-General Sir ALFRED KEOGH, late *Director-General Army Medical Services.*

WAR OFFICE,
ADASTRAL HOUSE,
VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, E.C. 4.

As one who has perhaps had the best opportunities of knowing what the Profession has accomplished and what it has enabled the administrative and other branches of the Medical Profession to accomplish in the many campaigns now being undertaken, I earnestly hope the greatest success will attend your efforts.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) ALFRED KEOGH.

Letter to the Hon. Sir ARTHUR STANLEY, G.B.E., C.B., from Sir A. T. SLOGGETT, late *Director-General of the Army Medical Service in France.*

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE.

I am truly glad to hear that it is proposed by the British Women's Hospital Committee to start a Fund to help invalided Nurses who have worked for the Armies during the War. The strenuous and unselfish work which women of all Branches of the Nursing Service

have done during the last three years is beyond praise—they have been tireless in their care of our sick and wounded and courageous as soldiers in the performance of their duty, for now that the "Gentle Hun" has extended his attacks to Hospitals, they are often in very great danger, which has been proved by the numerous casualties that have occurred. Although provision has been made for our wounded officers and men, nothing so far has been done for these devoted women, who are the admiration of all ranks of the Army. Hundreds of thousands of sick and wounded have been tenderly nursed by them, often under most trying conditions, and thousands of soldiers absolutely owe their lives to their tender care, for, although the Surgeon and Physician can do much, it is the woman nurse who really helps them back to convalescence.

Assuredly it will be deemed the duty and privilege of the Nation to see that those who have served it so nobly should—when, alas, disabled by injury or illness contracted during the performance of their self-sacrificing labours—be adequately and generously provided for. The Scheme has my heartiest good wishes for its success.

Very sincerely yours, .

(Signed) A. T. SLOGGETT.

