

Subscriptions of half-a-crown were to be invited for a parting present to Nurse Moore for her nine years service; now she is going, it is noted that "she had always carried out her work in a highly satisfactory manner." It is a sadly disconcerting comment on the times when they also add that "she had never lost a confinement and no blind babies have been born in the Parishes during the time she has been with the Association". The collection for her reached £11-10-0, which was mostly on a gold bracelet watch.

In the same month an agreement was signed with new Nurse Murphy, whose training had been three years at the Garrett Anderson Hospital and one year in the Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich. Her assignment here should be rather different. Her salary was to be £120 a year, with an £8 allowance for uniforms, and the usual bicycle, bag and accessories and, of course, a furnished cottage provided for her. The cottage had been newly painted and papered, with a matchboard ceiling put up in the living-room.

In March 1926 it was agreed to contribute £2-10-0 a year to the County Scheme for Nurses' Pensions and the vexed question of subscribers' titles was settled. A 'Benefit Member' is one who contributes 10s. and somebody who pays more is an Honorary Subscriber.

It might be of interest to list the Committee members of over 60 years ago, widely distributed around the parishes as they are: Mrs. Rudd of Heale, Leonard Vaughan, Esq. of Barton Grange, Mrs. Brain of Canonsgrove, Mrs. Horspool of Angersleigh Rectory, Mrs. Bramwell of 'Brookfield', Blagdon Hill, Mrs. Bletchley of Corfe Farm, Mrs. Orr-Ewing of Poundisford Park and Mrs. Marsden of 'Westcombe' Blagdon Hill.

At this time, new Council houses were being built at Littleham in Pitminster by the Rural District and the Committee applied for one, to be the home of the District Nurse. The Clerk wrote on the 28th October, 1926, to say that "the one nearest the road" had been allocated to them and this was accepted. This is a semi-detached brick building, one of a pair standing at right angles to the rest of the row and nearer to the village. (It is occupied now, in 1990, by Mr. and Mrs. Cronk).

In 1927 the local Agricultural Society folded and the Association was given £5-12-2 remaining in their funds. The Reverend Harry Freeman, Vicar of Pitminster was now appointed Chairman and was to give long and faithful service. Mrs. Balfour was the new Secretary and a short list of four possible Treasurers were to be approached in order. A year later there was still no Treasurer; in May 1928 Reverend Fry of Corfe was to be asked, but by November Mr. Brentford had agreed to fill the position.

Ten members met at Pitminster School at 3 p.m. on May 23rd 1929 and the question of running a car for Nurse was raised, but funds would not permit, so the hiring of a car in special cases was continued. The main news in the year was, however, the resignation of Nurse Murphy in her turn. She left on August 23rd and was swiftly succeeded by Nurse Sussex, thanks to the efficient action of the Secret. Members of the Committee were urged to make themselves known to her by calling her cottage after 7th September.

Miss Capper was the Treasurer in 1930 and reported that the number of small subscriptions had dropped; she wondered if the new Hospital Scheme was more attractive. The idea of getting a grant from Taunton Hospital was mentioned and insurance discussed. For the sum of £3-3-4 a year Nurse could be insured, when the Association would receive £2-10-0 a week for the first 13 weeks of her illness. Unhappily, there was an overdraft at the bank, so it was decided to hold a Rum Sale and a Whist Drive to raise funds.

There was actually a printed Report for 1930, in which it was intended to state that "Nurse Sussex continues to give of her best", but she was mis-printed as 'Nurse Lussen'. There is another slight error in the ante-natal visits, which become "57 Anti-natal Visits" - or do they really mean it? The total number of visits is ~~impressive~~ impressive, however, at 1,272, including 224 visits to infants, 39 to Schools, 82 to midwifery cases, 844 casual and general nursing visits.