

object, and it is still less within their power to meet the cost which the attainment of the secondary objects must entail. These, while they are important to Nurses themselves, are in at least an equal degree important to the public, who not only constantly require the aid which Nurses can give, but who would derive very real and practical advantages from being rendered able to protect themselves against the pretensions of unskilled persons. It is especially on this latter ground that I am desirous to ask for pecuniary help towards the realisation of our plans. It is well known with what bountiful liberality four great mercantile firms have endowed a fund for the benefit of Nurses who are past work, and I am hopeful that some similar response will be made to an appeal which has for its object to increase the efficiency of those who are still at the post of duty.

Contributions for this purpose will be thankfully received, and may be paid either to the bankers of the association, Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton, Ransom, Bouverie, and Co., 54, Lombard-street, E.C., or to the honorary secretaries, Dr. Bedford Fenwick and Miss C. J. Wood, at 20, Upper Wimpole-street, W.

HELENA.

Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park,
July 8.

BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM.

(Discussion continued from page 174.)

DR. MELSOM asked what advantage a Nurse would gain by joining immediately? Seeing that the association was only just created, what advantage would a Nurse have, who joined now, over one who joined in two or three years time?

Miss WOOD replied, that if Nurses did not join now, there would probably be no association at all for them to join, in two or three years' time.

Dr. FOXWELL asked whether only those Nurses, who were already trained Nurses of three years' standing, could join the association, or whether any Nurses of one or two years' training could join?

Miss WOOD: Only those of three years' experience can join.

Dr. FOXWELL: Experience gained in a hospital?

Miss WOOD: There are many old Nurses in, or out of, hospitals, to whom it would not be fair to say, "You shall not belong to the association"; therefore, the bye-laws specially provide that, during *this year*, the Executive Committee may elect any Nurse, as a member, who has been *working* three years in her profession, whether in a hospital or not; but after the 1st of next January, the admission of members will be made more select.

Mr. GILBERT BARLING, one of the Lecturers to Nurses, said it seemed to him that there was no necessity for urging an organisation, because everyone was aware, in the present day, that whatever they wished to obtain, they had but to organise for it, in order to get it. That applied to Nursing, as to other things. He was especially glad to hear from Miss Wood that this organisation was in no sense to be regarded as a trades' union, and that there was to be no attempt to control the hospitals in that way. That, of course, was a very important fact to place before the public, because there had been such things as Nurses' strikes. Certain causes of differences had arisen, and they had taken advantage of it to resign, to the lowering of their own dignity, and to the great disadvantage of the hospital; and, therefore, he thought this fact should be emphasised. A question Dr. Melsom asked just now was, "What advantage it would be to a Nurse to join immediately, rather than to wait for some time?" The advantage was this, she would help to gain Registration for herself and others. One of the first objects of the Nurses' Association, he understood, was to obtain this Registration for all Trained Nurses. If the Nurses did not join *immediately*, the thing would never come to pass at all; it would die from want of animation. It was, therefore, very important that the Nurses *should* join at once. If they joined together, they would certainly get the Charter. Then there were numerous questions to be considered, some of which, he believed, Miss Wood would put to them presently, bearing upon the training of Nurses. First of all, they said the training of a Nurse must be complete. Now, what was "complete"? Personally, he thought that three years was not too long for a complete and thorough training; that a Nurse is not generally fitted to undertake complete responsibility until she has undergone a training of that length of time. Then, he thought it was to be insisted upon that any Nurse who is to be on the Register should have a proper course of lectures delivered to her on anatomy and physiology. Then, he took it that she would have to undergo an examination upon the subject of these lectures, to which she would give satisfactory answers; and at the end of three years' training, providing she satisfied her examiners, she would have a certificate given her, and that would be taken, or sent by her to the central body, for Registration. That was what was in his mind, and he should like to know from Miss Wood if he was wrong. There was one point which would require careful consideration, and that was the composition of the Council. Miss Wood had pointed out that the managing power ought to be kept in the hands of Nurses and the medical profession. He thought that the laity should have an associated control with the General Council of Registration. Depend upon it, they would not give their money for any

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