

ment for Nursing a patient, previous to that date. That is a most important question, because it is the key-note of our contention as to the urgency of Registration. We cannot believe that people who plead that the time is not ripe for this measure, can have any idea of the suffering caused to the sick every day, at present, by women utterly ignorant and careless, who are employed under the belief that they are Trained Nurses. The moment we can get the Royal Charter, the evil will be checked. Till then, it is simply being increased and augmented, as more and more women find out how easy it is to make money by pretending to be a Trained Nurse, and the longer Registration is deferred, the greater number of such women will certainly have to be enrolled at first.

Miss ANNIE ARMSTRONG : Would any woman be Registered who applied ?

Miss WOOD : We could not accept any Nurse simply upon her own valuation. If she said she had nursed a patient, there must have been a Medical man in attendance, and she would have to produce a certificate from him that she had nursed the patient, and received money for it. We certainly should not, for instance, Register anyone who had only nursed a brother or sister in sickness.

Miss MOLLETT : If an untrained Nurse did not apply to be Registered in the year of grace, she could not apply afterwards ?

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK : Certainly not. After the year of grace, the Registration Board would have to lay down definite tests of efficiency, which every candidate would be obliged to satisfy before she could be Registered. And every year thereafter would tend to purify the Nursing profession, as the untrained women at first enrolled would, as Miss Wood has well put it, die "professionally"; or in other words, give up Nursing work.

The details of the Royal Charter under discussion were then unanimously adopted.

The next report was as follows :—

"The Executive Committee has carefully considered a large number of schemes proposed for adoption by the Association for the individual benefit of its members. It now recommends the General Council to sanction the following, and to refer them, with such suggestions as it thinks fit to add to each, to the Executive Committee, either to carry out, or to elaborate and report upon to the next or subsequent meetings of this Council, as in each separate case may appear most advisable.

1. "That each year the Association shall hold a *Conversazione*, and also a series of six meetings during the winter months, for the reading and discussion of papers upon Nursing subjects, all of which shall be open to members."

This suggestion was received with applause, and was unanimously adopted; but an eager conversation followed as to some details. One lady asked whether the meetings might be attended without having been present at the *Conversazione*. Finally the question arose as to whether members should

have the privilege of bringing friends with them. It was decided that they should do so to any of the meetings for discussion. But, with reference to the *Conversazione*, the difficulty was, it was pointed out, merely the practical one of finding rooms large enough even to accommodate the members who might desire to be present. Dr. Matthews Duncan caused much laughter by remarking that Nurses were being trained to be such important workers that perhaps very few would be able to leave their Hospitals to go to *Conversazioni*. Miss Mollett proposed and Miss Homersham seconded: "That members should be allowed to bring visitors by paying five shillings for each." This roused a good deal of comment, and was finally negatived. Dr. Bezly Thorne then suggested that the question of the charge should be left to the Executive Committee, who might find five shillings either too much, or too little upon any given occasion. He therefore proposed and Miss Stewart seconded: "That any member shall have the right to bring a friend to the *Conversazioni* by paying such charge as the Executive Committee may consider necessary upon each occasion." This was carried unanimously, Mr. Savory remarking that nothing would sound so well as for the papers next day to report, that the *Conversazione* was so largely attended that many were unable even to get admittance. (Laughter.)

The next recommendation was as follows :—

"That the Association should award, from time to time, under such regulations and such title as shall hereafter be determined upon, a Gold Medal to any Nurse who shall render conspicuous and unusual service to the cause or profession of Nursing." (Applause.)

Several questions were asked, and it was stated that analogous rewards were bestowed by the Royal Society, the Society of Arts, the Royal Geographical Society, the British Medical Association, and other learned and distinguished bodies, and highly appreciated by the recipients.

The suggestion was then adopted unanimously, and referred to the Executive Committee for further elaboration.

The next scheme proposed was in the following words :—

"That the Association should establish a Benevolent Fund, from which pecuniary assistance may be given to any Member who, from illness or other cause, is in urgent need of temporary help." (Loud applause.)

In reply to various questions, it was stated that public contributions would be asked for, either as donations or annual subscriptions, towards this fund.

A MEMBER : Who will distribute this money ?

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK : The Executive Committee has decided to appoint a certain number of its Members to act as a Benevolent Schemes

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