

Committee, and to take the control of all the benevolent schemes undertaken by the Association. It will probably have to meet frequently, and will supervise all disbursements from this fund.

The recommendation was then adopted unanimously.

The Executive Committee next suggested that the Association should as soon as possible organise one or more Convalescent Homes, and one or more Holididay Houses, for the benefit of its Members. (Applause.)

In reply to questions, Dr. Bedford Fenwick stated that as soon as it was known that the Association would undertake the organisation of this scheme, several benevolent people would offer small furnished houses or cottages at the seaside or in the country (rent free) for certain months in the year, to which Members might be sent who had no friend with whom to spend their holidays, and not sufficient means to obtain as thorough a change on their own account. He hoped in time that the Association would have these cottages placed at their disposal—each to accommodate two or three Nurses—all over the kingdom. In connection with this matter, he read a letter he had just received, as he was leaving home, from Dr. Bezly Thorne, offering the Association the use of a furnished house in the country during part of the year, for the reception of Nurses during their holidays. (Loud applause.)

The recommendation was then unanimously adopted.

The last scheme mooted was then reported thus:—

“That the Association may, if invited to do so, hold its Annual Meeting of Members in a provincial town, upon the same lines as those followed in the Annual Meetings of other large Associations. That the Annual Meeting shall therefore in future be held during the first week in August.” (Applause.)

In the discussion which followed it was stated that there were members of the Association now in every part of the United Kingdom, that very many, even of the General Council, found it impossible to attend meetings in London, and would yet be glad of an opportunity to do so if one was held in their neighbourhood. That other Associations, such as the British, and the British Medical, were invited to hold their meetings in one great provincial centre after another, increased public interest thereby in their work, and afforded themselves the opportunity of combining pleasure with business, and the cities they visited, a great opportunity of showing hospitality and kindly feeling.

The suggestion was then adopted unanimously.

The next business brought forward was described as follows:—“The Executive Committee hearing that considerable fears are expressed that the

effect of Registration will be to cause the supremacy of theoretical, over practical, knowledge in Nursing, have drawn up a programme of the knowledge it considers should be possessed by every Trained Nurse.” This was then read by the Honorary Secretary, a copy being in the hands of each member, and was as follows:—

“PROGRAMME OF PRACTICAL NURSING (suggested by the British Nurses' Association as essential to be known by every Trained Nurse.)—Candidates for Registration must possess some knowledge of Elementary Anatomy and Physiology. They must understand the best method of keeping a Ward or sick room clean and healthy, by sweeping, dusting, polishing, ventilating, warming, &c. They must understand the various methods of making a bed for Medical and Surgical cases, and of changing sheets, &c. They must know the best, and least exhausting, way of keeping a patient in a cleanly condition, and know how to prevent or dress a bed-sore. They must be skilful in undressing sick and injured persons, and must be able to bandage, pad splints, &c., and prepare and apply all dressings. They must know how to prepare or apply poultices, fomentations, hot bags and bottles, blisters, lotions, leeches, ice bags, evaporating lotions, and wet packs, and prepare for cupping; also how to give baths, hot, cold, hot air, and vapour, as regulated by the thermometer. They must understand the use of the clinical thermometer, and how to keep a chart, and record the rate of the pulse and respirations correctly. They must know the various ways of administering food, medicine, and stimulants, and know by heart the tables of weights and measures. They must be able to use quickly and correctly the various syringes and female catheter, and must know the quantities generally given in enemata and injections of all kinds. They must have practical knowledge of the various systems of disinfecting patients' clothes and rooms, and of keeping utensils and instruments thoroughly clean. They should possess some knowledge of cooking for the sick, and how to prepare beef-tea and jelly, chicken and mutton broth, arrowroot, cocoa, whey, egg-flip and milk puddings, and also how to peptonise food.”

The programme was adopted unanimously, and it was decided that it should be published and circulated among the Hospitals of the United Kingdom, as the views of the Association of the essentials of Nursing knowledge to be required in future from candidates for Registration. One speaker remarked that this apparently would not come into force for eighteen months or two years; and so it would give all Nurses plenty of time to learn their work. Another lady observed that “theory seemed conspicuous by its absence”; and Miss Homersham and several others commented on the great usefulness to Nurses if Hospitals took the hint and gave them opportunities for acquiring some knowledge of cooking for the sick.

The balance-sheet for the past quarter was then read, showing that, after the payment of all expenses, there was a balance at the Bankers of nearly £300.

The report concluded thus: “The Executive Committee considers that the rapid growth of the Association, both in numbers and influence, and its financial condition, are satisfactory and

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