

THE BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A GREAT and most successful Meeting was recently held in the Board Room at the Salop Infirmary in connection with the British Nurses' Association, the object of which is "to unite all British Nurses for their mutual help and protection, and for the advancement in every way of their professional work." Miss Wood, one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Association, was present to deliver an address, and amongst the large company present were:—Major-General the Hon. W. H. Herbert (chairman), Miss C. J. Wood, Miss Vizard (Alexander Hospital, Rhyl), Miss Shirley (Stoke), Mr. J. R. Humphreys, Mr. R. W. O. Withers, Dr. Calvert, General Hardy, Mr. E. Cureton, Mr. J. D. Harries, Rev. N. Cooper, Mr. W. Eddowes, Mr. W. E. M. Hulton-Harroy, Mr. J. F. Harries (House Surgeon), and a number of lady friends of the Institution and the Nurses.

The CHAIRMAN, having expressed his regret at the unavoidable absence of Dr. Burd, the Chief Medical Officer of the Institution, who intended to take the chair at the meeting, said that he (the speaker), being Chairman of the Board of Directors, was pleased to accept the office in Dr. Burd's absence. The object of the meeting, he said, was to show the Nurses connected with that Institution what was being done by the British Nurses' Association to aid them in making themselves thoroughly qualified to perform their onerous duties. Miss Wood, however, would explain to them, far better than he could, the various objects of the Association, and he had much pleasure in introducing her to them. (Applause.)

Miss WOOD, in the course of a lengthy and practical address, which was listened to with profound attention, explained the objects and aims of the British Nurses' Association.

Mr. HUMPHREYS, in proposing a vote of thanks to Miss Wood for the able address she had given, said that the Medical profession were all deeply interested in having a good staff of Nurses, both high and low. Miss Wood had spoken of the advantages of having Trained Nurses, and, speaking as a Medical man, he thought that was a very great desideratum in the present day. He considered that it was a very good thing for them to have such an organised association as that which had answered so well in the Medical profession to which he belonged. They were banded together in number about twelve thousand, and the Association was a very great help to the profession generally. Such an association would be of very great service both to the Nurses and the public, but there was much to be done before the plan could be carried out. When they opened their Nursing Institution they

would all be known as proper and efficient Nurses, for all those who, in fact, were no Nurses at all, were mostly injurious when dealing with the sick room. He thought it would be a very good thing if they could have all Nurses registered as proposed, for then none would be registered until they were thoroughly educated in their work. He wished the Association every success; it was a step in the right direction, and he hoped it would be joined by their Nurses and strengthened by many others who were following the profession of a Nurse. He had much pleasure in proposing that their best thanks be offered to Miss Wood for the clear and practical manner in which she had stated the objects of the British Nurses' Association. (Applause.)

Dr. EDDOWES desired permission, before the vote was passed, to ask Miss Wood a question with regard to which she had not spoken, and which was of the utmost importance. He wished to ask whether the Association intended to deal with the matter of Midwives. In France and Germany Midwives, he believed, must be Registered; but it was a blot upon the civilisation of this country that any old woman in a parish, who was able to hobble on two legs, should be able to say that she had attended so many cases, and was therefore a fit and proper person to take charge of the mothers of this country. He repeated that this state of affairs was a blot upon the civilisation of this country, and the Medical profession were to blame that they had not taken up the subject of the Registration of Midwives. He sympathised with what Miss Wood had said, and considered that the education which Trained Nurses had in the country was not sufficient. As regarded the Registration of Nurses, there could be no two opinions. Anyone who had been acquainted with the work of Nurses twenty-five years ago, as compared with that of the present time, knew what an enormous difference there was in it. He remembered well the time when he first went to the Salop Infirmary. The men's landing was nursed by a man and two women under him. One or two good Nurses, however, were there, but it amazed him how the patients ever recovered—certainly a large number of them did die. The sanitary arrangements too were bad, but, fortunately, that state of affairs had been altered. He had asked Miss Wood advisedly whether the British Association of Nurses would have to go to Parliament before obtaining the Royal Charter, and it seemed that they had to do so. He hoped they would be able to make their members of Parliament understand that they—the intellectual party of this country—intended to have measures of this kind carried, and that things should not be allowed to go on as they had done. (Applause.)

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