

appeal for a Royal Charter, is now organizing drawing-room meetings for this purpose, and has the pleasure to report that the Duchess of Abercorn, the Dowager Countess of Shrewsbury, Mrs. Mocatta, and other well-known ladies have already most kindly consented to hold these meetings at their houses.

The Report of the Executive Committee was then unanimously adopted, and ordered to be entered on the Minutes of the meeting.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick, in explaining several matters connected with the Draft Charter, said that the lawyers who have been engaged in drawing it up had asked for instructions on one or two points. In Bye-law II. it says, "With a view to the attainments of these objects, it shall be the immediate aim of the Association to obtain a Royal Charter incorporating the Association, and authorising the formation of a Register which shall include all Nurses as described in Bye-law IV.;" and then in Bye-law IV. it is stated that these comprise "the past and present Matrons or Lady Superintendents, Sisters, or Nurses, of any public Hospital or Infirmary, or Public or District Nursing Association in the British Empire, all trained Midwives and women who have been engaged in Private Nursing." The bye-laws therefore infer that all members must be women, and the lawyers wish to know whether the Registration Board is to take powers to register male Nurses. If not, this would, of course, exclude all male attendants at Lunatic Asylums, the Hospital Bearer Corps, and many others, from the benefits of Registration. From this, also, arises the question as to whether male Nurses are eligible for membership of the Association.

Mr. R. Brudenell Carter said:—This question, important though it seems to be, can have, I think, only one answer. Not only will the admission of male Nurses add considerably to the financial and numerical strength of the Association, but it will prevent the establishment of a rival Association for the Registration of male Nurses. It seems to me that we should throw open our net as wide as possible, and include in the Registration scheme all that we possibly can. I therefore move that the Charter should give powers to Register, and to admit as members of the Association, all properly qualified male Nurses.

Mr. Frederick J. Gant said: I have not had the opportunity of attending many of these meetings, but I must give my opinion as to the extreme desirability of including male Nurses. There are many cases which absolutely need a male attendant—for instance, those of *delirium tremens*—and I think that it would be very inadvisable to exclude such workers, for it would mean the exclusion of a considerable body. I have

much pleasure, therefore, in seconding this resolution.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick: At the meeting of this Council in October last, it was decided that the annual meeting of Members should in future be held in August, as that, it was thought, would be the most convenient time of the year for Nurses. But upon further discussion of the subject, it has been found that not only would a great many Medical men and Matrons be unable to attend in that month, but that Her Royal Highness, the President, would also be unable to be present. It has been thought, therefore, that the middle of July would be a more opportune time for the meeting, and the Executive Committee therefore recommends the Council to authorise the adoption of this date for the annual meeting.

Dr. E. Fardon seconded, and the recommendation was adopted unanimously.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick: It was also decided by the Council last October, that Annual Meetings of Members should be held in large provincial centres, but it was not decided that the meeting of this year should be held out of London. There have been numerous complaints addressed to us from provincial Members stating that the British Nurses' Association is too local, in fact quite a London Association. A lawyer has lately drawn my attention to the fact that about sixty years ago the "Incorporated Law Society," nearly came to a disastrous end, because the Provinces felt themselves neglected to suit the convenience of London lawyers. Cambridge is pointed out as being a good centre, and although it has been shown that it is rather an awkward point for country Members to reach, it is very easy of access from London. Besides this we have a large number of Members in Cambridge and the surrounding districts, and we are inclined to believe that we should be able to organise a successful gathering if the meeting is held in that town. I therefore propose that the Annual Meeting shall this year be held at Cambridge.

Mr. Brudenell Carter seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Brudenell Carter proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Savory replied, saying that it was always a great pleasure to him to be able in any way to help the Association, and the meeting then concluded.

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THE one who will be found in trial capable of great acts of love is ever the one who is always doing considerate small ones.

ALL fits of pleasure are balanced by an equal degree of pain or languor: it is like spending this year part of the next year's revenue.

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