

standard of education, but nothing about a standard uniform. She hoped the time would come when Nurses' uniform would be protected as is that of soldiers and sailors. (Applause.) The qualifications of teachers is a matter that also required attention. Those who undertake the training of others should be at the head of their profession, and, in addition to the theoretical knowledge, should be able to do practical work even better than the average Nurse. Miss Kenealy commented severely upon the fact that it was becoming the custom now for young women who knew little or nothing about Nursing, and who, perhaps, had only been in a Work-house Infirmary for three months, to masquerade about the country in full Nursing uniform, lecturing to the public on Nursing matters. (Much applause.) She hoped that such quacks and impostors would be widely exposed in future, and the ridicule they thus brought upon Nurses be prevented. (Much applause.)

Miss MOLLETT thought that three months' preliminary elementary instruction would hardly be sufficient in the case of Nurses spending their probationership in provincial Hospitals, where, there being no medical school, they would not have the advantage of hearing clinical bedside teaching.

Mrs. STRONG replied that, in her Hospital, the Nurses had declared that after the preliminary theoretical instruction they are better able to understand the instruction given to students at the bedside, and that the knowledge, they had gained some time before, came back to them.

Mr. WALSHAM, in speaking of Anatomy, said it might not be so necessary for a Nurse to know the names of all the bones, as to know where they are. He saw no reason why, one day, some central authority like the Royal British Nurses' Association should not undertake to impart this preliminary education. Each Hospital could still have, if it so desired, its own school as well. (Applause.)

Miss WINGFIELD said that, in her opinion, the path of progress was a more simple one in London than in Provincial Hospitals, for, in London, Committees understand better what the training of Nurses means; and they are prepared to bow to the wishes and opinions of the medical staff. But in some provincial Hospitals the medical staff have little or no power. It would be an advantage if some directors and members of Committees could be sent to a training school, and shown what is really required in Hospitals. (Hear, hear.) If a State test were imposed, improvement would be forced upon provincial Hospitals which, unfortunately, turn out at present many inferior Nurses. Many uneducated women enter provincial Hospitals; the Matron finds them to be incapable; and yet, at the end of say two years in the wards, the chairman signs her certificate, and expects the Matron to do the same. London Nurses, she hoped, were not so turned out. Why should not the public as well as Nurses be protected from the incapable and ignorant Nurse? (Applause.)

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK said he thought the instructive paper, read by Mrs. Strong, would do much to diffuse a greater knowledge amongst the public concerning the total want of uniformity that existed at the present day in the education of Nurses. Many people are aware that the training at present given is often inefficient; but few know that as regards the elementary fact of the length of training there are now no less than seven standards in vogue. Two or three Hospitals train for four years; a good many train for three years; a diminishing number of others train for two years or one year. But there are still Hospitals that train for eighteen months, or for six months, and even for three months. But whether the Nurse is in the Institution for three months or

for four years she terms herself a trained Hospital Nurse, and can show a certificate to that effect. This was bad for the public but worse for the Nursing profession. Mrs. Strong suggested that the Royal British Nurses' Association might undertake the conduct of examinations for Nurses. He was afraid this would for years be impossible; for when the Association was founded it was determined that it would on no account attempt to interfere in any way with the management of Nurse Training Schools: and, when before the Privy Council, the question was pressed home, the Council of the Association was instructed to say, in the strongest terms, that the Association had no intention whatever of examining or interfering with the examination of the training Schools. He could not, therefore, see how the Association could take this matter up except, perhaps, at the request of the Schools themselves—in the dim and distant future. It seemed to him that Meetings like this Conference could do a great deal to bring about some system of outside examination, which doubtless will have to be inaugurated before uniformity in education can be obtained. And the only way to get uniformity of education would, he considered, be by having a State-formed Nursing Council which would send Visitors to each large Training School in the Kingdom, to examine, in conjunction with the authorities of the Hospital, its Nurses in practical as well as in theoretical work. The Nursing world, he thought, was on the verge of further and greater reforms than had yet been achieved, and, within the next few years, he believed they would see an Act of Parliament passed which would form a State body to deal with all Nursing educational matters—to carry on the Registration of Nurses and to control the Nursing Profession. (Much applause.)

Mrs. STRONG, in reply to the various speakers, said that the curriculum drawn up by the teachers in the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, was not promoted with the idea that it would form a model for other schools. As to the lessons in Anatomy, she could only say that she wished she had had an opportunity of listening to them at the beginning of her career, as she would have enjoyed her nursing work much more. (Applause.) Professor Clarke, the lecturer, has said that it takes 200 lectures to teach Anatomy; and that, therefore, it was impossible in twelve lectures to touch more than the outline of the subject. As to examinations, she wished to make it clear that the Nurses were examined in bandaging, the preparing of surgical dressings, the testing of urine, and in the use of the clinical thermometer. In regard to expense, it costs the students £12 for three months, that is about 10s. a week, and £5 for lectures. However elementary the teaching might be, it was thorough. But it is hoped that bursaries and grants may be given in future to help those who otherwise would be unable to defray the expense of this education. (Applause.) Mrs. Strong said she felt honoured by being asked to read a paper at the Conference. She had felt some diffidence in bringing to their notice a scheme which had not been long in work. But they were doubtless all of opinion that some such scheme was greatly needed. (Applause.) She then proposed—

“That in the opinion of this Meeting it is necessary that an Act of Parliament should be sought for to provide for the uniform training, the uniform examination, and the legal registration of Nurses.”

Miss HENRIETTA KENEALY seconded the Resolution, which was carried unanimously and with acclamation.

A vote of thanks to Mrs. STRONG for her paper was proposed by Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, and carried by acclamation.

Dr. COUPLAND proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Miss STEWART, which was seconded by Dr. FENWICK, and carried by acclamation, and the Meeting then concluded.

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