

Association had passed some resolution that they would admit Asylum Attendants, and it was for this meeting to say whether this met with their approval or not. (Applause.) He trusted that there were present those who would speak on both sides of the question, and that it would go forth that it was the intention of those connected with this Nursing Association to see that justice was done, both to the Nurses at present on the Register and to the public as well. (Applause.)

Miss Wingfield was then invited to read a selection from the numbers of letters received (upwards of one hundred). She selected those from Miss Frances Hughes, Kensington Infirmary; Miss Beachcroft, County Hospital, Lincoln; Miss H. Poole, The Infirmary, Blackburn; Mrs. Okell, the Infirmary, Bridge-water; Superintendent Sister Sidney Browne, Herbert Hospital, Woolwich; Miss Jane Wade, Scottish Branch, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute; Miss Agnes E. Bourne, Chalmers Hospital, Edinburgh; Sister Alice Hawes, Glasgow; Miss M. Huxley, Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin; Miss G. E. Hughes, Chief Nurse, Richmond Asylum, Dublin; and Miss H. Newman, Hertford British Hospital, Paris.

Miss Wingfield said that when she had studied the Report, comprising the suggestion to admit to membership and registration of the Royal British Nurses' Association Asylum Attendants as Mental Nurses—without training in

General Hospital—she had communicated with 100 Matron colleagues on the Register, and with 150 registered Nurses, drawing their attention to the serious suggestion which the Report embodied, and suggesting a meeting in London to protest against the proposal. In reply she had received letters from 74 Matrons protesting against the scheme, all of whom had signed the Resolution as they were unable to attend the meeting. Miss Wingfield then read the names of those ladies and the Institutions to which they belonged. From the 150 Sisters and Nurses with whom she had communicated, she had received 141 replies, all of whom had signed the protest, and many of whom had sent letters condemning in strong terms the suggestion to place upon the Register of Trained Nurses, and admit as members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, Asylum Attendants, or any other persons who had not qualified for the privileges by conforming to the Regulations now in force. Miss Wingfield remarked that it would be seen that more than two-thirds of those communicated with had replied expressing disapproval of the scheme. She had also communicated with the 200 medical members of the Association, asking them to use their influence to prevent this great injustice to Nurses and the public.

Miss Wingfield said she had received six letters from members—who objected to sign the protest—expressing the opinion, that the admission of Asylum Attendants on to the Register of Trained Nurses was desirable, or harmless.

The Chairman then called upon Miss Wingfield to propose the resolution.

#### MISS WINGFIELD PROPOSES THE RESOLUTION.

Miss Sophia Wingfield, Member of the General Council, in proposing the resolution said, that the scheme for placing Asylum Attendants, as such, on the Register of Trained Nurses, which was accepted by the last General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, had been commented on in the *Lancet* and *British Medical Journal* by various persons. She stated that Dr. Outterson Wood had contributed letters to these Journals which were most misleading to those who did not understand the subject with its various side issues, and would lead many into believing that Asylum Attendants were to have General Hospital Training before being eligible for Registration, but that this was not the case; three years' experience in an Asylum for the Insane was to be considered sufficient qualification for admission to the Register of fully Trained Hospital Nurses. To admit this, it would be necessary to alter the present standard of qualification for Registration, and it was but natural that fully-trained Nurses should feel the injustice of the proposed act.

Miss Wingfield then proceeded to read and to answer the arguments advanced by Dr. Wood in support of his scheme. The first reason given by Dr. Wood was that the Asylum Attendants, whom it is proposed to register, possess the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association, and are thoroughly trained in their special branch. Miss Wingfield clearly showed that under the present regulations no specialists, whether fever, monthly, midwifery, or mental Nurses, are eligible for Registration without a preliminary basis of general training, and that this has always been one of the fundamental principles of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

The second argument in favour of the scheme was that Hospital Nurses were unable to undertake the Nursing of mental cases because they were untrained in this department, but this, Miss Wingfield said, did not bear upon the point, for the question was not that of a proposal to place Trained Nurses upon the Register of Asylum Attendants, but of placing these persons upon the Register of Trained Nurses.

Miss Wingfield then stated that the third clause in Dr. Wood's letter appeared to her to have no bearing on the subject, and if she commented upon it in the way in which she

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