

delegates from nursing Societies and representative women, and proposed that

"The Matrons' Council takes steps to form a Sub-Committee to facilitate the attendance of nurses at the Twentieth Century Celebrations, to be held in the United States in 1901."

This was seconded by Miss Mollett, after which Miss Breay, Miss Stewart, Miss Mollett, and Mrs. Bond spoke. The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously. This brought the proceedings of the first day to a close.

THE QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING.

On Friday, July 6th, the Quarterly Council Meeting for the transaction of business was held. The correspondence was first dealt with, the Report of the Executive Committee was received and adopted, and applications for membership recommended by the Executive were considered.

Miss Ellen Buxton, Matron of the Park Hospital, Hither Green, Miss M. Deane, Matron of the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, and Miss S. I. Glanville, Matron of the Bromley and Beckenham Joint Hospital, were appointed members.

The occasion being a specially opportune one for the consideration of the important question of the organization of a National Council of Nurses, owing to the presence of many country members, a Draft Constitution had been printed and sent to the members, with the notice of the meeting. The remainder of the two hours was devoted to the consideration of this subject, and a most keen and animated discussion took place. Many valuable suggestions were made, and eventually it was decided that the draft constitution should be referred back to the Executive Committee to amend in accordance with the suggestions made, after which it should be again submitted to the Council. Many of the members expressed their intention of coming up to town again when the question was again dealt with.

THE SECOND SESSION.

In the afternoon, the Conference was resumed, when three very able papers were presented on "THE REASONS FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES"

from the standpoint of the Medical Practitioner, the Trained Nurse, and the Patient.

DR. TOOGOOD'S PAPER.

The first paper, by Dr. F. S. Toogood, Medical Superintendent of the Lewisham Infirmary, was an admirable one and was listened to with much pleasure and some amusement. He said that the immense development both in numbers and influence, which had taken place

of late years in nursing ranks, had made the demand for registration one which could not be neglected, and which must be accorded both in justice to the demand of the trained nurse, and for the protection of the medical man. He further advised nurses to close their ranks and reconcile their factions, to be true to their leaders—they had leaders of undoubted merit—to follow them and support them loyally. They were now sufficiently powerful to obtain anything which they might reasonably demand.

In conclusion, Dr. Toogood said that there was no subject nearer his heart than the welfare of the nursing branch of the Medical Profession. He had endeavoured to show that he was thoroughly in sympathy with any reasonable scheme of registration, and he believed the great mass of Practitioners would favourably receive the idea.

He sincerely hoped that the wishes of the Matrons' Council would be accomplished in the near future, and that Registration of Nurses would tend to multiply and rivet the bonds of common interest which unite the Medical and Nursing Professions.

MISS POOLE'S PAPER.

The paper, from the standpoint of a trained nurse, was written by Miss Henrietta Poole, Matron of the Blackburn Infirmary, who, unfortunately, was unable to be present to read it herself. She considered the question under four heads—(1) What is Registration in reality? (2) Why is it necessary? (3) How is it to be obtained? (4) Who can aid in obtaining it?

"We constantly," said Miss Poole, "speak of ourselves and our fellow workers as members of the Nursing Profession, but I have to confess, sadly enough, that we have no right to any such title; in fact, we have no rights at all as matters are at present."

Arguing that what has been found good for the man will be found good for the woman also, Miss Poole pointed out that "men have found it necessary to protect themselves and the public by a legal register of qualified persons, and that the doctor who has spent money and time in qualifying, objects to have the money he should earn diverted into the pocket of the unqualified quack. He has, therefore, persuaded the Government of this land to protect him by passing a law which prevents the unqualified man from competing with him. In other words, the registered medical practitioner has acquired certain rights, and he demands that these shall be respected."

If women are ready to give their money and their work in order to fit themselves for the care of the sick, why should they be refused the

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