

power that has been granted to the medical practitioners to protect their branch of the Profession, by Registration, from ignorant and would be rivals? . . . Nothing but legal Registration will prevent the recurrence of such a scandal as has been witnessed in South Africa. . . . However, we need not go as far as South Africa to find abuses which can only be remedied by Registration. What about all the Private Nursing Institutions worked by individuals or committees as a speculation? The Matron or Secretary does not, as a rule, care whether the nurse has a certificate at all, and, as for a Matron's recommendation, it is so much waste paper. . . . Such scandals could not exist were Registration a legal necessity. If further reasons are to be sought, they may easily be found in the need for a uniform minimum standard of proficiency to be required of every nurse before she can qualify."

MRS. CRAWFORD'S PAPER.

Mrs. J. A. Crawford then dealt with the question from the point of view of the public. "As a preliminary, I may just mention," she said, "that those views are not there, the horizon of the light-hearted public is entirely clear of them," not until he needed a nurse would the advisability of providing beforehand for such accidents, break on the understanding of the man in the street. Then, he would "rend the heavens with his indignation if that which was invisible to him before did not instantaneously rush to his aid, fully equipped, up to date, and quite capable of restoring him to his normal condition.

Speaking of the excitement now raging over the "Hospital Scandal," Mrs. Crawford advised nurses to take heart. "You have been," she said, "through a time of—we will say, misunderstanding—you have toiled and been rewarded with the wages of a London charwoman—the Government appraised your services at that value—and I hope you like it. There are many thousands of medals being prepared—ribbons and decorations, titles and honours, Peerages, busts, memorials, and so forth. Do you think you will get any? Oh no, my ladies—not unless you raise your voices and make your protest—the Human must always make its protest, for in the way of injustice and wrongs generally we may reckon on being given just as much as we will take. We have to ask for what we want—and see that we get it, moreover."

This is the principle which we nurses must apply to Registration.

The following resolution was then proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and seconded by Miss Mollett:—

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the State Registration of Trained Nurses is a matter of urgent national importance, both for the protection of the sick from incompetent attendants and for the protection of the educational and economic interests of certificated nurses."

After Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Stewart, Miss Todd, Miss Kingsford, Miss Huxley and Miss Mareddydd Harrison had spoken, the resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously and with applause.

"THE NURSING OF THE SICK AT SEA."

The Count stated that few, if any, British ships are provided either with the necessary staff or with a hospital. "How, then," he asked, "is the proper care of the sick at sea to be secured?" Public opinion must be aroused, and pressure must be brought to bear on the Government to pass a law that all ships carrying passengers should set aside a certain portion of passenger space to be used as a hospital. Once the carrying of such accommodation is made compulsory, ship owners will have no right to grumble, as all ship owners would have to set aside a certain space, according to the number of passengers their ships were licensed to carry.

Sheer want of attention is, thinks the Count, one cause of the deaths of many patients shortly after arrival on board ship. This anyone conversant with the treacherous nature of malaria, and the still more fictitious strength of malarial patients, will be able to appreciate. In conclusion, he urged that a worthy memorial should be erected to the memory of the late Miss Mary Kingsley, and it was probable that nothing was more keenly desired by her than the inauguration of an efficient system of the Nursing of the Sick at Sea, so that some scheme dealing with this would seem to be specially suitable.

Miss M. Breay and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick having spoken, and a vote of thanks having been accorded to the Comte de Cardi for his excellent paper, the Conference was concluded.

THE SOCIAL SIDE OF THE CONFERENCE.

A pleasant feature (one frivolous Matron said the pleasantest) of the Conference was the hospitality which was offered by various members to their colleagues.

On Thursday, after the International deliberations, Miss Isla Stewart entertained to a most sumptuous luncheon—salmon, galantine, compotes, cream and strawberries—the members of the Provisional Committee. Her tasteful rooms were beautifully decorated with a profusion of summer flowers, and the guests were in high good spirit. Hospitality is a Scotch characteristic, and—in the

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