

flirt with their husbands and be otherwise objectionable. In justice to the great bulk of well trained nurses who work splendidly and devotedly, it is right that their services should receive legal recognition and protection. We owe it to ourselves and our profession to work for this. Nurses will, however, only make themselves heard if they speak very decidedly, and make themselves somewhat obnoxious. We live in a very noisy and vulgar age, and unless we speak very forcibly and very loudly our voices will not even be heard, much less listened to. Believing, however, as we do, that State Registration of Trained Nurses is of urgent national importance, we must continue to ask for it and to work for it. I beg therefore to move the resolution which I read to you at the beginning of these remarks."

MISS MOLLETT: "I regard it as an honour and a pleasure to second the resolution proposed by Mrs. Fenwick, and which I hold in my hand. At the same time I feel there is little to be said on the subject, for where Mrs. Fenwick has harvested there are no gleanings. One thing I should like to say namely, that with regard to the medical treatment of the sick we all recognise the medical man as supreme. No well trained nurse ever thinks of criticising a doctor's orders. But with regard to the superintendence of nursing, the management of the nursing staff, and the supervision of domestic details we do claim that we know our own work, and should be entrusted with power to carry it out. In the interest of trained nurses, and for the protection of medical men, who are seriously injured if the work of those who nurse their cases is inefficient, I heartily second the resolution proposed by Mrs. Fenwick. At present there is no means of punishing or condemning those who bring discredit upon their profession. That disreputable persons can and do pose as nurses, is well known. We have no protection at present, but we believe that we are entitled to it. I beg to second the Resolution."

THE PRESIDENT: "With regard to what Dr. Toogood pointed out as to the impossibility of providing certificated nursing for the middle classes, the question is a very difficult one. Many years ago a scheme, which might be revived, was suggested in connection with the Royal British Nurses' Association, but it has not been carried into effect. As to the friction in the nursing profession to which Dr. Toogood has alluded, no one regrets it more than the Matrons' Council, and it has done everything it can to conciliate what I am afraid I must call the other side. The crux of the matter is this. At the present time educated, well-trained women are mixed up and confounded with the half-trained. We cannot wait indefinitely for the other side. If they will not come with us then we must go on making this our point. And we intend to go on until we get State Registration. The time may be long or it may be short, but in the end we shall get it."

MISS TODD: "I should like to explain the position of the Matrons of some special hospitals, in which the poorer middle classes are often nursed, and to ask what is our duty towards our profession? It is the custom of these hospitals frequently to give training in nursing in their special branch for a year or six months. We cannot well bind ourselves to take only three years' certificated nurses. It is a question for the committees to decide, because such a step would cause increased expenditure to the institution, but if we countenance this short special training, are we not helping to foist inefficiently trained nurses upon the

public? Our position seems to me to be a difficult one, and one upon which I should be glad of advice."

MISS KINGSFORD: "In discussing the question of registration, I should like to ask what is to be the position of nurses trained in the small general hospitals? There is no question that the discipline in the smaller hospitals is not the same as that in the larger ones. I may suggest that the small hospitals occupy the same position in relation to the large ones as private schools do to the great public ones, but are the small hospitals to have no registration?"

MISS MOLLETT: "With regard to Miss Todd's question, I think that rules should be laid down as to what constitutes an efficient nursing education. Committees should be prepared to pay a fair sum for nurses' services; they should not run the hospital at the expense of the nurses."

MISS TODD: "They pay at the market rate for the services they employ."

MRS BEDFORD FENWICK: "We should follow the example of the medical profession and obtain registration, the market value of the nurse for a special hospital would then be the market value of a registered nurse. I sympathize with Miss Todd in the difficult position in which she finds herself, that she may, while desirous of doing the best for the individual institution in which she is working, be adding to the body of half-trained nurses."

MISS HUXLEY (Dublin): "At the Hospital of which I am Superintendent there is a midwifery department for training the wives of soldiers. They live somewhere in the basement, and I never see them, but subsequently some of these women go out and nurse cases of scarlet fever, injuries to the head, and other cases of general nursing, and give out that they were trained at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital."

MISS MAREDYDD HARRISON (Southport): "I know of nurses of six weeks' training who are sent out as private nurses. Doctors often do not inquire into the qualifications of the nurses to whom they entrust their patients."

THE PRESIDENT (Miss Isla Stewart): "I think the case for Registration has been fairly proved. I should like to point out that amongst those who help to swell the ranks of private nurses are the probationers who are sent away from the training schools not necessarily for any fault, but because they are inefficient, and, in the opinion of the authorities, will never make good nurses. It is common for these women to take up private nursing, and to receive the full fees. If no one else has anything to say I will put the resolution to the meeting."

The resolution was carried unanimously with enthusiasm.

#### *The Imperial Yeomanry Branch Hospital.*

LADY GEORGINA CURZON has received a cable from Lady Roberts, stating that she had opened the Imperial Yeomanry Branch Hospital at Pretoria, and which concludes with the words "everything is perfect."

Surgeon-Major Kilkelly, of the Grenadier Guards, principal medical officer to the above hospital, cabled that a convoy of 100 sick and wounded was hourly expected to arrive at the hospital, and that everything was in excellent order for their reception.

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