

medical reformers fifty years to obtain legal status.

In regard to the growing distrust of the public, Miss Pell-Smith expressed the opinion that while this was true on the one hand, on the other there was growing appreciation. The distrust was, she thought, due to two causes. (1) Nurses were themselves to blame, in that they sometimes became slack when away from supervision. (2) The public did not always recognize that there were limitations to a nurse's work. If her duties to the patient did not occupy her whole time, they thought she should occupy the remainder in performing the work of a housemaid or cook.

Miss Child (late Matron of the Buluwayo Hospital) thought that a nurse must adapt herself to the conditions in which she found herself, for instance, in South Africa, if the wife who had done all the house-work were laid aside the nurse of necessity had to throw herself into the gap.

The meeting then terminated.

### Inauguration of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

At twelve o'clock, Miss Isla Stewart, President of the Matrons' Council, took the chair at the meeting convened to deal with the formation of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and read with great regret a telegram from Miss Louisa Stevenson, who was announced to preside, saying that her doctor absolutely forbade her to undertake the journey to London. Miss Stewart said that all who knew Miss Stevenson and the keen interest which she took in the question of State Registration of Trained Nurses, would feel sure that the concluding words of her telegram, "deeply disappointed," expressed her real feeling.

Miss Stewart then called upon Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who had so far done the work of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer in connection with the proposed Society, to explain the present position of affairs. Mrs. Fenwick said at the previous meeting she had reported that the Matrons' Council felt the time had come for the formation of a Society having State Registration as its sole object, and had invited applications for membership of such a Society. The result was that 461 applications had been received from Matrons, Sisters, and Nurses holding good positions. This was a nice nucleus for the Society, but membership must be multiplied a thousandfold, if the Society was to accomplish the work which was before it. The last census showed that there were 80,000 women in England and Wales who described themselves as trained nurses, and the first duty of those who formed the Society would

be to work up its membership so that it might become a thoroughly representative body. She then proposed:—

"That the 461 trained nurses who have associated themselves together at the request of the Matrons' Council to work for a Bill providing for the legal Registration of Trained Nurses do now form themselves into The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses."

This resolution was seconded by Miss Mollett, put from the chair and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Fenwick then said, "We now form the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses," and proceeded to make a statement with regard to the finances, which showed that the total amount received in subscriptions from members was £57 12s. 6d., in donations £3 7s. The expenditure, which included office furniture, clerical help for three months, the necessary official ledgers, stationery, and stamps, had been £19 17s., there was therefore a balance in hand of £41 2s. 6d. She suggested that the working of the Society should follow as much as possible the lines adopted by the Matrons' Council, the members giving personal service, and avoiding heavy office and secretarial expenses. She was quite willing that the clerical work of the Society should be done in her own house. In this way the funds of the Society might be husbanded and used for the purpose of propaganda.

The proposed Constitution of the Society was next considered, clause by clause, and after a full discussion, in which Miss Isla Stewart, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Barling, Miss Marquardt, Miss Todd, Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Andrews, Miss Burr, Miss Greenlaw, Miss Pell-Smith, Miss Macvitie, and others took part, the Constitution as printed below was adopted.

#### CONSTITUTION.

##### NAME.

The name of the Society shall be "The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses."

##### OBJECT.

To obtain by Act of Parliament a Bill providing for the legal Registration of Trained Nurses.

##### HON. OFFICERS.

The Hon. Officers shall be:—

1. A President.
2. A Senior Vice-President.
3. Vice-Presidents.
4. An Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.
5. Local Hon. Secretaries.

##### MEMBERS.

Membership shall be open to trained nurses of three years' experience.

The Society shall have power to elect hon. members.

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