

Royal British Nurses' Association, should be impossible. A good Bill would make it compulsory for the large body of registered nurses to select as well as elect their direct representatives, so that these representatives would be compelled to give periodical account of their stewardship, and if not in sympathy with the electorate could be superseded by others.

Mrs. Fenwick considered that State Registration of Nurses would be of the utmost value to the medical profession. At present, there being no standard of training, medical men were largely at the mercy of the middleman who exploited nurses. This was not fair, when one realised how intimate were the professional relations between doctor and nurse; how much power for good or evil nurses had in relation to patients. A thoroughly conscientious nurse could be of inestimable value in helping the doctor to restore the sick to health, or by ignorance and neglect of duty an unconscientious woman could ruin both his work and his reputation.

As for the patient, the public, rich and poor, required the very best all-round women to care for their nearest and dearest. At present they had absolutely no guarantee in engaging a nurse that she was efficient. No class of the community would receive greater benefit from State Registration than the general public; and if they only realised the dangers of the present chaotic condition of affairs they would demand protection, and that right soon.

Mrs. Fenwick sketched the history of the Registration movement in this country, in which she said she had been privileged to take a somewhat prominent part. The demand for reform had met the fate of all such demands, keen opposition from conservative and self-interested ranks, a good deal of wobbling from the expedient, and plenty of plucky support from those who were genuinely convinced of the righteousness of Registration. These latter had gained great support and much consolation from an international survey of the whole question. One after another, Colonial nurses pronounced whole-heartedly for Registration, and as for the United States, it did not take American Nurses long to realise the value of legal status.

The fight for the principle of Registration might be said to be at an end. How Registration should be effected was now the crux of the question. Mrs. Fenwick pleaded for self-government, and proved to the meeting that any Bill, however well intentioned, which proposed to "control" the nursing profession, as apart from giving it power to control itself, was based on a wrong principle, and must be opposed. At this crisis Matrons and nurses—for all formed one sisterhood of nursing—must unite to obtain the very best legislation possible.

Mrs. Gower proposed, and Mrs. McIntyre

seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker, and the company then dispersed to hold much animated converse on this most important question. The Home, thanks to Mrs. McIntyre, looked charming; the drawing-rooms in which the meeting took place were tastefully decorated with a profusion of beautiful pale pink and white chrysanthemums, palms, and pretty lights.

Tea was arranged in the dining-room, and here the scheme of colour was in sympathy with the white and yellow decorations, white and yellow chrysanthemums blooming everywhere. The Home "cookie" is an expert in cakes, and everything tasted as good as it looked. Mrs. McIntyre, who had been untiring in her preparations, made, as usual, the most kindly of hostesses, and the thanks of the Society are due to her and also to Mrs. Gower and Miss Buckle for gathering together at so short a notice so representative a meeting. Amongst the guests were Miss K. Scott, Matron Sussex County Hospital; Miss Myers, Matron of the Brighton Infirmary; Miss Woods, Matron of the Lewes Hospital; Miss Rimington, late Matron General Hospital, Nottingham, and some forty nurses and others interested in the movement. Many of the beautiful flowers were a gift from Miss Jane Salmon, and an ample supply of chairs was most kindly lent by Miss Walenn, of 35, Sussex Square.

Brighton nurses should be well up in the Registration question, as Miss Georgina Scott, late Matron of the Sussex County Hospital, held a meeting at that institution quite recently to arouse interest in the Bill being drafted by the R.B.N.A., the clauses of which she said were still private. What will be of real benefit to the nursing profession at large will be the comparison of the Nurses' Bill, as adopted by the members of the Society for State Registration, and the R.B.N.A. Bill, which, no doubt, like all the other measures of that Society, will represent the views of its medical managers. For euphony's sake these two Bills will, no doubt, come to be known as the Nurses' Bill and the Doctors' Bill. It is to be hoped they will run on parallel lines, otherwise the masterly inactivity of the R.B.N.A. for the last seven years on the Registration question might well have continued. The determination of those nurses who have severed their connection with the R.B.N.A. owing to its betrayal of their interests on this vital principle is as firm as ever not to place themselves professionally in the power of the men and women who have been responsible for the persecution of nurse-members for their consistent support of the principles upon which they founded their own British Nurses' Association in 1887.

Peace in the nursing ranks can only be hoped for from legislation which will create an entirely impartial Governing Body.

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