

professional society, so I was told—a result which naturally comes from the association of those with common interests, such as the welfare of the sick and the perfecting of professional work. The spirit which animates this Association is tremendously encouraging to those who have been compelled to face the “narrow parochialism” and intolerant exclusiveness which have brought so much discredit on the English nursing world in the opinion of the liberal-minded women of the new worlds—in our Colonies and the States—and which has left English nurses hopelessly in the rear in educational methods and professional status—a deplorable position, which only generous unity in the nursing ranks can improve. As this sense of unity, tempered by tolerance, appears to inspire the majority of the Irish Matrons, we may therefore predict a progressive and happy future for their Nurses' Association.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATION.

One evening I was afforded the opportunity of speaking to a full room of nurses at the Club on the aims and work of the International Council of Nurses. The suggestion of International Affiliation of National Councils of Nurses, so that once in five years the nurses from every country in the world might have a common meeting-place, come into personal touch, and give and take the best from one another, seemed to appeal to what was evidently a most sympathetic audience, and as four members of the Irish Nurses' Association are going to Berlin to attend the Congress and International Nursing Conference, the Irish nursing world will be well represented, and will in the future no doubt take its place officially in the International Council of Nurses of the world.

A MEETING AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

The most important meeting was held on Friday, April 15th, when, by the courtesy of the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, the Irish Nurses' Association invited the leading medical men, Matrons, and nurses in Dublin to discuss the burning question of State Registration of Trained Nurses, and I had the honour of addressing the meeting. Thanks to the Central Hospital Council for London, every hospital and medical man in the city had been bombarded with the Anti-Registration Manifesto, so that just the interest required had been aroused in the question. The large hall was crowded, upwards of fifty medical men and some 400 nurses making an audience worthy of one's steel, especially as one felt, even before the nurses were good enough to encourage with applause, that they were in sympathy with the cause one was about to advocate.

Dr. Little made an admirable chairman, and the meeting was full of life throughout. The following resolution was proposed by Sir John W. Moore:—

“That this meeting considers that it is essential that nurses throughout the United Kingdom should be efficiently educated for the performance of the responsible duties entrusted to them. That a minimum standard of education and common rules of discipline can be secured only by an Act of Parliament; and that, as a preliminary to such legislation, it is desirable that a Select Committee of the House of Commons should be appointed at an early date to inquire into the whole nursing question.”

In seconding the resolution Dr. O'Carroll spoke with great good feeling, showing an intimate knowledge of nursing matters, and proving himself entirely in touch with the progress of modern nursing thought.

Mr. Marcus T. Moses, J.P., and Dr. Parsons held a brief for the Anti-Registrationists, and trotted out all the old shibboleths, which, however, found but little support from those present. Sir Thomas Myles said whatever doubts he had on the matter had been dispelled by Dr. Parsons' speech.

Sir Thornley Stoker said he differed distinctly from the views put forward by Mr. Moses and Dr. Parsons, and claimed, quite rightly, that because “London had spoken,” that was no reason why Dublin should not think for itself—a sentiment which was loudly applauded.

The Chairman having put the resolution to the meeting, it was carried by no uncertain sound, and the meeting terminated after Sir Charles Ball and Dr. Richard Hayes had proposed and seconded a vote of thanks to me, and Miss Hampson had thanked Dr. Little for presiding with so much courtesy and kindness. Amongst the audience may be named Sir Thornley Stoker, Sir John W. Moore, Sir Charles Ball, Sir Thomas Myles, Sir William Thompson, Dr. O'Carroll, Dr. Richard Hayes, Dr. Bennett, Dr. Purefoy, Dr. Potter, Dr. Parsons, Dr. Craig, Dr. Peacock, Dr. Travers Smith, Dr. Wheeler, Dr. Day, Dr. Dallas Pratt, Dr. Chance, Dr. Lentaigne, Dr. McVittie, Mr. McCausland, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Swan, and Mr. W. Fry; Miss Huxley, President; Miss MacDonnell, Lady Superintendent Richmond Hospital; Miss FitzPatrick, Adelaide Hospital; Miss Shuter, Royal City of Dublin Hospital; Miss Ramsden, Rotunda Hospital; Miss Egan, Coombe Hospital; Miss Hampson, Porto Bello House; Miss McNeill, Children's Hospital, Temple Street; Miss Campbell, St. Vincent's Hospital; Miss Haughton, Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital; Miss Hughes, Portrane Asylum; Miss Barns, Richmond Asylum; Mrs. Manning, Dental Hospital; Mrs. Kildare-Treacy, Lady Superintendent of the City of Dublin Nursing Institute; and Miss M. MacDonnell, Secretary Irish Nurses' Association.

To show the great interest taken in the question of State Registration by the nurses of Dublin, although the hall, doorway, and corridors were packed, great numbers were unable to obtain admission to the meeting. The organisation of this meeting was

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)