

DEPUTATION TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

At a meeting of the Parliamentary Bills Committee on March 9th, a resolution was adopted asking the Public Health Committee of the House of Commons to receive a deputation from this Society to "invite its consideration of the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the whole nursing question."

The Committee expressed their willingness to receive the deputation, and the following ladies attended at the House of Commons on March 22nd, and were introduced by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick:—The Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, Mrs. H. J. Tennant, Mrs. McKenzie Davidson, Miss Isla Stewart, Miss Barton, Miss Ross, and Miss H. L. Pearse.

Resolutions in support of an inquiry were handed in by the Hon. Secretary from this Society and the Irish Nurses' Association.

Miss Isla Stewart presented a memorandum on the necessity for the organisation of trained nursing on a sound educational and industrial basis, Lady Helen Munro Ferguson spoke from the point of view of the public, and was supported by Mrs. H. J. Tennant. Mrs. McKenzie Davidson presented a resolution from the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland supporting the demand for a Select Committee. Miss Barton referred to the disastrous suggestion to certificate and create a "qualified nurse" after one year's training in a minor training-school under the Poor Law—a recommendation which would not have been possible had a system of Registration been in force.

Miss Ross spoke of the danger to the public from specialists undertaking the nursing of serious cases of illness for which they had not been trained, and Miss H. L. Pearse gave instances from personal experience of the inefficient standard of experience demanded and of the sweating of nurses' labour by proprietary nursing institutions. Mrs. Fenwick drew the attention of the Committee to the unsatisfactory condition of the nursing in many nursing homes conducted on lines least calculated to benefit the patient.

The Committee gave a most courteous hearing to the deputation, and thanked them for the expert information placed at their disposal, and promised to urge the early appointment of a Select Committee to deal with the subject.

HEADQUARTERS.

On January 1st, 1904, the Society was able to secure an office at 431, Oxford Street, on terms within its means, which, owing to its central position, has been found most convenient for the holding of meetings.

AFFILIATION WITH THE NATIONAL UNION OF  
WOMEN WORKERS.

Our application for affiliation with the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland was considered by its Executive Committee on February 18th, and our request was granted. This affiliation is of importance, as it gives our Society direct representation on the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, and brings it into touch with the women workers of the world in the International Council of Women.

DELEGATES ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

In reply to our invitation to the self-governing Leagues of Nurses, offering them representation on our Executive Committee, letters have been received from the Hon. Secretary, League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, accepting office, and nominating Mrs. Hayward to represent the League; from the Hon. Secretary of the League of St. John's House Nurses, stating that Miss Laura Baker, Home Sister, Howard de Walden Home, had been elected; and from the Hon. Secretary of the Matrons' Council, intimating that Miss Ross, Matron of the Western Fever Hospital, has accepted a seat, and would represent the Council on our Executive Committee.

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
NURSES.

Six delegates from this Society attended a Conference, convened by Miss Isla Stewart, held in London on April 8th, to discuss "Organisation with a view to International Affiliation," when it was decided that a Provisional Committee should be formed to act as the intermediary for this country with the International Council of Nurses, composed of six delegates from each of the seven societies represented at the meeting, and that this Provisional Committee of forty-two persons should be empowered to affiliate with the nurses of other nations at the forthcoming meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Berlin in June.

LAY ASSOCIATES.

The Executive Committee recommends that provision should be made in the Constitution for the admission of Lay Associates to the Society, and a resolution has been placed on the Agenda for this meeting providing for the admission of members of the public as Associates, the subscription to be 5s. per annum.

MEETINGS ATTENDED.

The Hon. Secretary attended a meeting at Brighton organised by the Local Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Gower, and explained the necessity for legislation.

Upon the invitation of the Legislation Committee of the National Union of Women Workers, on March 2nd the Hon. Secretary attended and discussed with it the various clauses of our Draft Bill. The matter was accorded thorough consideration by this Committee.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)