

to the Branch and Executive Committees, the decision being left to the annual meeting at York this year. It is hoped that the Affiliated Societies will consider the matter, and be prepared to express an opinion at the November meeting of the Union.

By the courtesy of the Hon. Secretary of the Matrons' Council of New South Wales we have received a copy of the By-Laws of that Society, which is on much the same lines as our own.

A party of American nurses, on their way to the Congress in Berlin, will be in England at the end of the month. It is for the Matrons' Council to consider how we can best show them some hospitality.

The Report was accepted.

The Hon Secretary then reported letters of regret at inability to attend from Miss Maud Moora, Miss McCaw, Miss Kough, Miss Ross, Miss Elma Smith, and Mrs. Matthews (London); Miss Macintyre (Wigan), Miss Purvis (Middlesbrough), Miss Shipley (Redcar), Miss Hay Forbes (Axminster), Miss Barling (Kidderminster), Miss Cureton (Bridgworth), Miss Clara Lee (Kingston), Miss Mollett (Southampton), Miss Elliot (Weston-super-Mare), Miss Richardson (Stockport), Miss Tamar Bean (Wellington), Miss Gaved Wills (Newark-on-Trent), Miss Pell-Smith (Leicester), Miss Wingfield (Macclesfield), Miss Haughton (Dublin), Miss Newman (Belfast).

Other correspondence was then dealt with, after which applications for membership were considered and accepted from:—

Miss E. M. Roberts, late Lady Superintendent Nurses' Co-operation.

Miss J. Prosser, late Matron Tewkesbury Hospital.

Sister Albens Fogarty, Matron South Infirmary, Cork.

The following resolution, proposed by Miss Macvitie, and seconded by Miss Villiers, was then considered and carried unanimously. Several absent members also wrote in its support:—

"That this meeting considers 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."

The arrangements for the adequate entertainment of the American nurse-delegates to the Berlin Congress on their visit to London were then considered; also the representation of the Council on the Provisional Committee of a National Council of Nurses, and the action to be taken, in relation to resolutions, by the Representative of the Council at the Annual Meeting of the National Union of Women Workers.

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

The Progress of State Registration.

THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The current issue of the *Nineteenth Century and After* contains two admirable papers—admirable by reason of their brevity as well as their matter—by the Marchioness of Londonderry and Miss Isla Stewart, in reply to the article against Registration by Miss Lückes, Matron of the London Hospital, in the May issue of the magazine.

LADY LONDONDERRY'S PAPER.

As is natural, Lady Londonderry deals with the question from the point of view of an employer of nurses, one which is too often overlooked by hospital authorities, who, unless they undertake the supply of private nurses as a profitable business for their institution, concern themselves, as a rule, but little in the welfare of the sick outside their own gates, with the result that the rich, who can afford to pay, and who do pay, fees which command the services of a skilled nurse, have in the past, as a class, been much worse served than the poor.

Lady Londonderry opens her paper by saying that she began to study the Registration question with an open mind, but a little biased against it "by the views of Miss Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of skilled nursing, and by the formidable list of experts" sent to her "who object apparently to any form of Registration." Unprejudiced study of the question has had the usual result, namely, to convince the student that "some form of organisation would be of enormous service, not alone to members of the profession of nursing, but to the general public."

Dealing with the important question of technical training, Lady Londonderry writes:—

"It is with great surprise I noted that Miss Lückes seemed to attach so little importance to technical training. From the point of view I have adopted, surely the question of technical training is the whole point. . . . Should only a good-tempered, high-charactered, nice woman be required, who could be thoroughly trusted, most establishments could provide one, either a relation or a trusted old servant who could do all that love and affection could suggest for the patient; but when a trained nurse is required, the public should surely be able to get one, and have some guarantee of her efficiency."

Organisation on some such lines as those suggested by the advocates of State Registration would, Lady Londonderry believes, be a protection to the public. In regard to its benefit to nurses she writes:—

"It is a source of wonder to me that nurses . . . should look with equanimity on the profession being crowded out by untrained and unskilled nurses, who demand the same remuneration as those who have received the best training it is possible to obtain. . . . What incentive is there now for a woman

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