

garnished our house, so to speak, we found the same evil spirit returning to take possession under a different guise, and bringing with it other evil spirits worse than itself—not the least dangerous of these being ‘a little knowledge.’ And though these same nurses had amongst them many worthy women who became in time first-class nurses, the system was a bad one, and not fair to those who had spent years of hard work in various public hospitals in order to gain their fuller knowledge and certificates.”

Another former evil was the inferior teaching in some of the public schools. Some of the larger hospitals required three years, others two and less, while some country ones thought twelve months long enough for a nurse to learn her work—and as far as what they had to teach went, it certainly was. All this was very unsatisfactory to the nurses as well as to patients. Now there was a uniform time of training all through the recognised schools, and a Conjoint Board of Examiners to examine the trainees at their last examination. Every hospital, the speaker maintained, is under the moral obligation to see that its trainees are properly taught, and staff nurses and Sisters should be chosen not only for their knowledge, but also for their ability to impart that knowledge to others. I will go, she said, even still further, and say that greater care should be taken to choose the proper trainees. Here the responsibility lies with the Matrons. A nurse enters at first on a period of probation. At the end of that time it rests with the Matron to say whether she is or is not fit to continue her training. Once she has become a pupil, unless she commits some flagrant breach of the rules, makes some culpable mistake, or resigns of her own accord, she must continue her training, and if she can pass her examinations, comes out as fully trained, though in a thousand small ways she may have been totally unfit. There is one great good preliminary training-schools for nurses would accomplish, and that is that greater care could be taken in picking the women most fitted to train, for “Teach, or preach, or labour as you will, everlasting difference is set between one person’s capacity and another’s,” and this God-given supremacy is priceless, just as rare in the world at one time as another. What you can manufacture or communicate you can lower the price of, but this mental supremacy is incommunicable; you will never multiply its quantity or lower its price, and the best thing that we can generally do is to set ourselves not to the attainment but to the discovery of this. Learning to know gold when we see it from iron, glass and diamonds from flint sand, is for most of us a more profitable employment than trying to make diamonds out of our own charcoal. It is an incontestable fact that the history of all professions shows that, to be successful, a profession must have its associations and societies, that the very binding together of the members of a pro-

fession for purposes of discussion of their mutual interests, requirements, and professional wants induces that *esprit de corps* without which no profession can hope to maintain its position.

The Report was adopted unanimously, after which the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. W. B. Vance, presented the financial statement. The Association is to be congratulated on a substantial balance in hand, £250 of which has been handed to the Benevolent Fund. The adoption of the balance-sheet was proposed by Mr. J. A. Levey, and seconded by Miss Glover, who, in the course of her speech, said that even had the Association done nothing else the very fact of improving the training of the pupils and making the examinations uniform was enough to justify the three subscriptions which had already been paid into its coffers. It was what the English nurses were still struggling to secure. Of course, it was much more difficult for them. One could not very well compare a country with 80,000 nurses with a country with, say, 1,000 nurses at the outside. At any rate, that one advantage alone was worth all the members had paid into the Association.

The motion was carried unanimously, and reports were then presented by Dr. Moore as to the work of the Conjoint Board of Examiners, and by Dr. M. O. O’Sullivan, representing the special Training-School in Gynæcology and Midwifery at the Women’s Hospital, Melbourne.

In the course of his remarks, Dr. Moore said: The President has said to-night that he recognises, and the Council recognises, and rightly so, the large gap that exists between the unregistered and the registered nurse. One of the dangers of the future that I see, and indeed it is at our very threshold to-day, is the inroads made on the rights of the registered nurse by the unregistered. That danger will become more accentuated every day unless the Council, with the assistance of the Association, devises some means whereby it can be obviated. Personally, I would be in favour, if it could possibly be accomplished, of State Registration. That would accord to the nursing profession a legitimate status that it could not otherwise secure. The profession will always be subject to the inroads of the unregistered nurse unless the members of this Association get a legal status by State Registration.

Other business of interest was then transacted, and, after a vote of thanks to the President, the meeting terminated.

Nurses of the old world are finding the value of professional organs which keep them in touch with their sisters at the antipodes. To *Una*, the organ of the Victorian Trained Nurses’ Association, we owe the extremely interesting information which we have been able to place before our readers. It will be noticed that already Victorian nurses are able to point out that they are ahead of us in the old world. How do British nurses like that?

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