

not attempt to employ a title to which they had no justifiable claim.

Mrs. Fenwick then dealt with a few of the arguments used by those in opposition to the organisation of nursing, and showed that the same arguments and fears had been expressed during the momentous fight between the advocates and opposers of the State Registration of medical men half a century ago. She was of opinion that they were equally fallacious in the present instance. Had the organisation of the higher education of medical men under State control benefited the sick and the members of the medical profession during the last half-century or not? Was there any comparison between medical methods in the past and the splendid progress made by scientific medicine in the present day? In her opinion, none whatever. What legal status, organisation, and discipline had done for medical men could be effected for nurses by exactly the same means. Let us try it. Law and order were necessary in every condition of life, and enormously important when dealing with human life.

Mrs. Fenwick regretted that in Great Britain, although we were the pioneers of the principle of Registration, we must now follow after our more progressive Colonies and the United States, in several of which nurses were registered by the State, after passing through a definite course of training, and giving evidence before a State Board of their efficiency. But a precedent had been established, and we should certainly have to work up to it in time. She invited all those present to realise their individual professional responsibility, and not to imagine that "one more or less does not matter." Each member of our noble calling could add to, or detract from, the estimation in which it was held in the body politic. Let each do her part to elevate nursing to the ideal to which we might never attain, but of which we should never lose sight.

The audience was deeply interested throughout, and many of those present expressed themselves willing to take part in the movement.

The meeting closed with an expression of thanks.

MEETING AT THE LEICESTER INFIRMARY.

A General Meeting of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League was held last Friday, November 18th, to which the trained nurses in the town were invited, to hear Miss Isla Stewart (Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital) speak on the subject of State Registration.

Over 100 nurses, including the infirmary staff, were present.

Amongst them were Miss Pell Smith, Matron of the Home Hospital; Miss Webb, Matron of the Isolation Hospital; Miss Fawcett, Matron of the Saffron Walden Hospital; Miss M. de H. Spittal, Matron of the Charnwood Forest Convalescent Home; Miss McHardy, Lady Superintendent of

the Trained Nurses' Institution; and representatives from the various organisations of trained nurses in the town.

The President of the League (Miss Rogers) took the chair at 3.30 p.m., and after a few words of introduction from her, Miss Stewart read a most interesting paper on "State Registration." She went through all the points for Registration, both as regards nurses and the public, and also took the arguments given by those in opposition to it, and explained how many of the difficulties might be overcome.

The speech was listened to with much interest and close attention, and after some discussion and questions asked, the following resolution was put to the meeting by Sister Jessie, and seconded by Miss M. Potter:—"That in view of the fact that there is at present no standard of training for nurses, and that a woman can now call herself a nurse and receive the fees of a nurse, whether she has been trained or not, it is the opinion of this meeting that it is expedient that nurses shall be registered by the State."

It was carried by a large majority, only two voting against it, although some present did not vote. Miss Pell Smith then moved a vote of thanks to Miss Stewart for her great kindness in coming to Leicester, which was seconded by Miss M. de H. Spittal.

The League feels that this meeting will do much to awaken a keen interest among the nurses in Leicester on the Registration question, many of whom had given no thought to the subject until they heard about it from Miss Stewart. The meeting was followed by a social gathering in the nurses' sitting-room.

MEETING AT CHELSEA INFIRMARY.

On Tuesday last an informal meeting of Poor Law Infirmary Matrons was held at the Chelsea Infirmary to discuss the question of the State Registration of Trained Nurses, as it affects nurses working under the Poor Law.

Miss Amy Hughes made an able statement on the subject of Registration, with which she is well qualified to deal.

Some of the county Matrons who were unable to be present wrote giving their views, opinions being expressed both for and against Registration. The discussion which followed Miss Hughes' speech by those who were present was both interesting and instructive.

Miss Barton, the Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary, who has done so much for the cause of State Registration, is to be congratulated on taking the initiative in this matter. Poor Law Infirmaries all over the country are now doing excellent work; and the well-appointed training-schools connected with many of them are turning out a body of thoroughly qualified nurses—many of them, in addition to their medical and surgical training, possessing a know-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)