

(f) "My experience is that the discipline of hospital training helps to form good character as well as proficiency in work; therefore the presumption is that when a period of good and systematic training is the *sine qua non* of recognition by the State, we shall hear much less than at present of the indifferent character of nurses.

(g) "I would entreat everyone present to think over carefully all that has been said on this subject. I feel that thinking will lead to conviction, that the movement is a good one and worthy of support; and then I would ask each one not to rest contented with personal conviction, but to work for the cause, to try to convince others, and to interest them in turn to work.

(h) "The slowness of reform is partly due to opposition, but mainly to ignorance and apathy—ignorance on the part of those who have not had the opportunity, as some of us have, of seeing the evils that are threatening to ruin one of woman's noblest professions; apathy on the part of those who understand the need, but will not trouble to take an active part with those who are struggling against such difficulties, and who mean to have reform, cost what it may, in time, in labour, and in strength."

Miss Broad said that, speaking as a lay woman, she had been much interested in listening to Miss Hughes and Miss Mollett. Teachers had had uphill work and a hard fight before they obtained their Registration; already it is bearing good fruit and doing much for the scholastic profession. Upwards of 1,000 girls had passed through her hands, and many of them had become nurses, but she was sorry to say she did not know of a single case where the girl had been what she considered capable for undertaking such a great care. In several instances mothers had consulted her as to some career for their daughters, and more than one had suggested nursing in a hopeless way as a last resource. From her own observations she concluded that girls often tried to become nurses because they were good for nothing else. If nursing were a properly organised profession there would be no place in it for such women.

Miss Broad then gave details of the careers of two girls who, being dismissed from their first training-schools at the end of the usual month's trial, drifted from small hospital to small hospital, alternating a month's work and a few weeks at home, until after six or eight months spent in this fashion they called themselves nurses, obtained work as such in private families, commanding the fees of a fully-certificated woman.

Miss Georgina Scott upheld the principle of State Registration. She considered it would raise the standard of the nursing education given in many hospitals, and compel Matrons to look fully into the work done and the teaching received by their probationers.

The Mayor of Bournemouth said he had accepted the invitation to be present with some misgivings, as he had been by no means convinced of the desirability of State Registration, but the very able and lucid addresses to which he had just listened

had clearly shown him that there could not be two opinions as to the wisdom of such a measure.

He considered that in every walk of life one could not have too high an ideal, and certainly nurses could not realise this too strongly; their ideal, both as to the technical as well as the personal side of their work, could not be too lofty, and its realisation would be well worth any struggle they could make.

Miss Todd then moved the following resolution, and proposed that, if the audience agreed to pass it, a copy should be forwarded to the Select Committee on Nursing of the House of Commons:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting the Registration of Nurses by the State is desirable, as a measure calculated to promote their efficiency and as a safeguard to the public."

This resolution, which was seconded by Miss Scott, was carried unanimously.

Miss Forrest, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman and speakers, remarked that she had lately been in correspondence with a large number of Matrons and nurses on the subject of State Registration. One note rang invariably through the replies: the present state of "muddle," "chaos," "confusion," and so on. With the exception of "State Registration," she had only heard of one other attempt to solve present difficulties; it was put forward recently in a monthly magazine, and appeared to be a sort of a kind of Registration *sans* backbone, *sans* eyes, *sans* teeth *sans* everything!

After the conclusion of this very successful meeting, Miss Todd, Matron of the National Sanatorium for Consumption, welcomed the speakers and local Matrons to a most refreshing tea, which was greatly enjoyed amidst much good feeling, and hopefulness for the progress of the cause all present had so much at heart.

Central Poor Law Conference.

The Central Poor Law Conference will be held at the Guildhall on the 21st and 22nd of February, under the presidency of Sir Edward Fry. Mr. F. H. Bentham (Bradford) and Mr. George Lausbury (Poplar) will introduce the subject of "The Position of the Poor Law in the Problem of Poverty." Dr. Rhodes (Manchester) will read a paper on "The Treatment of the Mentally Defective under the Poor Law," and Mr. A. F. Vulliamy (Ipswich) will speak on "The Treatment of Vagrants."

At a meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association held at 86, Lower Leeson Street, a most instructive lecture was delivered by Dr. Tweedy, Master of the Rotunda Hospital, on "The Care and Management of Infants." There was a very large attendance of members, and the lecture was thoroughly appreciated.

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