

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

ANNUAL REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 30TH, 1905.

In presenting the Third Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, it is necessary to touch very briefly on the great amount of work which has been accomplished during the past year. When it is reported that thousands of postal communications have been sent out from our office, and that only £5 14s. 8d. has been spent upon clerical help, it will be realised that the work of our Society has been largely accomplished by voluntary labour.

By this means, and by the personal influence of many of our members, interest in State Registration has been aroused all over the United Kingdom, which, after due consideration of the question, we hope may ultimately produce a consensus of opinion in its favour.

During the year the Executive Committee has dealt with the work of the Society which has been of national importance. The Executive Committee has met five times, and the Parliamentary Bills Committee twice. An immense amount of business has been transacted.

MEMBERSHIP.

Since the last Annual Meeting 300 applications for membership of the Society from Matrons and Certificated Nurses have been accepted, thus making a total of 1,505 since the formation of the Society three years ago. This is an encouraging result, and stimulates us to hope that large numbers of well-trained nurses, as they come to understand the aims and object of the Society, will continue in increasing numbers to give it their support. It is noteworthy that the list of members includes the names of nurses trained in nearly every important hospital and Poor Law infirmary, proving that the demand for Registration is confined to no section of the community, but is a general one on the part of certificated nurses who are free to join such a Society.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The following ladies and gentleman have consented to act as Vice-Presidents of the Society:—

The Lady Victoria Campbell.

Miss M. E. Jones, Matron, General Hospital, Birmingham.

Miss Carpenter Turner, Lady Superintendent, Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester.

Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B.

WORK OF THE SOCIETY DURING THE YEAR.

Dr. Farquharson, Member for West Aberdeenshire, who kindly consented to introduce our Bill last year into the House of Commons, was again invited to do so by the President, Miss Louisa

Stevenson. As he felt unable to give the time necessary to watch over the interests of the Bill, and, acting upon his advice that a younger man should be interested in the Nurses' Registration Bill, Mr. R. C. Munro Ferguson was approached, and kindly consented to introduce the Bill, which he did on February 23rd, 1905.

The Bill was influentially backed by the following Members of Parliament:—

Dr. Farquharson, the Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, K.C., Sir Thomas Wrightson, Bart., Sir James Joicey, Bart., Mr. Hugh Crawford Smith, J.P., Mr. Alexander W. Black, W.S., Mr. H. Trelawny Eve, K.C., and Dr. Thompson.

The Bill has been down for a second reading on several occasions, but has not been reached, as no place was secured in the ballot for its discussion; and as it has been blocked it cannot be discussed as non-contentious business after 12 o'clock.

WORK OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BILLS COMMITTEE.

As the result of a memorandum sent by the Parliamentary Bills Committee to the 670 members of Parliament, with a covering letter, asking them to obtain the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the whole nursing question, the Premier on June 6th, 1904, stated in the House of Commons his intention of appointing a Select Committee to consider the question of the Registration of Nurses.

On June 26th, 1904, it was ordered "That a Select Committee be appointed to consider the expediency of providing for the Registration of Nurses." The Committee was accordingly nominated of Dr. Robert Ambrose, Major Bagot, Sir Michael Foster, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Lyell, Mr. Malcolm, Viscount Morpeth, Mr. Pierpoint, Sir John Stirling Maxwell, Mr. H. J. Tennant, and Sir John Batty Tuke.

Mr. Lyell, Mr. Malcolm, and Sir Michael Foster were subsequently discharged from the Committee, and Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Mr. Mount, and Dr. Hutchinson added.

The Committee met for the first time on Tuesday, July 5th, when Mr. Tennant was called to the chair. It was resolved "That it is expedient that the question of the desirability of Registration for Nurses in Nursing Homes should be included in the Inquiry."

The Committee first took evidence on July 7th in Committee Room 17 of the House of Commons.

As the Committee had not time last Session to complete the inquiry it issued the following Interim Report:—

"The Select Committee appointed to consider the expediency of providing for the Registration of Nurses have agreed to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them to the House with a recommendation that a Committee be appointed in the next Session of Parliament to continue the Inquiry."

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