

ensued, and it was stated by Mrs. Spencer that in the early days of the League the question of Vice-Presidents and Patrons had been discussed and decided against, as it was considered best that in such a League all members should be equal. Miss Kingsford, in an able speech, pointed out the importance of having, as Vice-Presidents, those who were in sympathy with the declared professional policy of the League.

It was made plain by the Chairman that the office was, in reality, only that of Vice-Chairman, and that the Vice-Presidents would be subject to re-election every three years.

The Vice-Presidents having been limited to two, Miss Cox-Davis, Matron Royal Free Hospital, and Miss Finch, Matron University College Hospital, were elected to these positions.

#### TREASURER.

Miss Jenkins (better known to old Bart's nurses as Sister Casualty) was then elected Treasurer.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Shuter, Miss Beatrice Jones, and Miss Villiers were elected members of the Executive Committee in the place of the retiring members.

#### A POST-GRADUATE SCHEME.

The President then said that the League had a balance in the bank of £67, and it seemed that it might fulfil one of its objects by arranging a course of lectures on elementary bacteriology. Dr. Frederick Andrewes would be willing to give such a course for a fee to be decided upon. It was most important that nurses should have a knowledge of this subject, but at present she knew of no way in which they could obtain the necessary instruction.

It was agreed that the lectures should be arranged, and that members of other Leagues should be allowed to buy tickets.

#### STATE REGISTRATION.

The President then made a statement on the Progress attained during the past year towards the State Registration of Nurses. It had, she said, been an exciting and eventful year.

A Select Committee of the House of Commons was taking evidence as to the desirability of Registration, and would subsequently present a report on the subject to the House. She then went on to describe the scheme for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses emanating from seven City Financiers, under which it was proposed to register nurses.

She would like to draw the attention of the League to the important evidence given by Sir Victor Horsley in protesting before the Board of Trade against the Licence being granted to the proposed Society.

As the representative of the British Medical Association, comprising 20,000 medical men, he said that they would recognise no registration of nurses which was not under legal authority, but they

wished to see such registration carried out by the State as soon as possible.

The decision of the Board of Trade, which had been communicated to the protesters, was that the consideration of the application for the Licence of the Board "should be deferred until the Bills now before Parliament for the Registration of Nurses have been disposed of," and that the application would therefore stand over.

Thus a very great danger had been very successfully overcome.

Miss Stewart then invited all those who were in favour of State Registration to give the Society, which was working to attain this end, their active support.

Mrs. Walter Spencer suggested, and it was agreed to, that the League should consider the grant of donations from the surplus funds to such objects as the Home of Rest for Nurses at Brighton, the Society for State Registration, or Medical Missions in which members of the League were working. The details to be left to the Executive Committee to settle.

She thought that now it possessed the means the League would do well to widen its interests, and to extend its help to matters outside its own borders.

This concluded the business meeting, and the members then adjourned to the Great Hall, where the President received the invited guests, and where a sumptuous tea was served and most thoroughly enjoyed by those present, while an admirable band provided excellent music.

The members of other Leagues who were present greatly admired the fine old Hall in which, by the kindness of the Hospital authorities, the Bart's League is able to hold its gatherings. Indeed, it links up many traditions with Henry VIII. looking down upon those assembled from one end of the Hall, and Edward VII. beaming approval at the other.

An interesting feature of the gathering this year was the presence of several tiny children, whose mothers are members of the League.

## Legal Matters.

### DAUGHTER CHARGED WITH MURDER.

Charged with having murdered her mother by administering laudanum, Madeline Aspinwall, a trained nurse, was at Sheffield committed for trial on Monday. She stated that she gave her mother the poison to prevent her being taken to a lunatic asylum. On her behalf it was stated that she was formerly head mistress of one of the largest schools in Sheffield, and afterwards became a nurse, her devotion to her duties having broken down her health. She nursed her mother with affectionate care, and it was while she was herself prostrate that she gave her mother the poison and took some herself.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)