

She asserted that she had quite as many applications for nurses who were not certificated as for those who were. Nurses at the London were taught to be ashamed of working for the certificate only. Nearly every one could get the certificate, but everybody could not be a good nurse. (Are we to understand that the London Hospital certificates women whom the authorities do not consider good nurses?)

She did not believe in uniformity of standard. She did not think that the hall-marking of nurses by registration was going to help the public at all. She considered the number of unsatisfactory nurses had been exaggerated a great deal. Very much good work could be done by half-trained people. They might do better than many who had passed a minimum standard.

Dr. Dickenson opposed the Registration of Nurses as undesirable, and unworkable financially.

Mr. Upton, on behalf of the Society of Apothecaries, considered the proposal of registration unnecessary and undesirable. They feared the enforcement of such a system might make the nurse set herself up as the co-equal of the doctor. He asked for representation of his Council on the Governing Body of the nursing profession, should such a body be established. The essential thing in nursing was not so much the knowledge as the manner of the nurse. He apprehended that if nurses were made a quasi chartered profession they would give themselves airs with the households.

Sir Henry Burdett, who said he was "not at the present time engaged directly in either the training or the control of nurses," opposed the registration of individual nurses, and advocated the registration of institutions, which should be required to publish registers of the nurses trained by them.

#### Neutral.

Dr. Percy Allan discussed the difficulty of providing for the nursing of the poorer classes, but said he was certainly not against registration if it was voluntary.

Mrs. Charles Hobhouse gave evidence as to rural nursing conditions. She did not object to the principle of registration. She thought it might be an advantage, and it might be extremely detrimental to nursing. This depended on the way it was carried out.

The other neutral witness was Mr. G. W. Duncan, Secretary to the Central Midwives' Board, who gave evidence on the subject of finance, but preferred to express no opinion as to the question of Registration.

We have very briefly alluded to some of the points brought out in the Minutes of Evidence given before the Select Committee on Nursing. We hope on a future occasion to refer in detail to the Report itself. The general trend of the evidence, and the Report of the Committee, is highly gratifying to the advocates of registration, and will inspire them with the courage required to carry its provisions into law.

#### IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

At the first Executive Meeting of the Winter Session of the Irish Nurses' Association, held on Saturday, the 2nd inst., the Secretary was directed to convey to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick the hearty congratulations of the Association on the satisfactory Report given by the Select Committee of the House of Commons regarding State Registration of Trained Nurses, and to tender her the best thanks of the Association for all the work she has undertaken on behalf of the Registration Cause.

## Progress in Australasia.

We learn from the present issue of the *Australasian Nurses' Journal* that in future the journal will be issued monthly instead of quarterly.

The Australasian Trained Nurses' Association reports progress in various directions. We have already mentioned the establishment of branches in Queensland and South Australia.

At the annual meeting of the Association it was unanimously decided that a central examination should be established, and that on and after June 1st, 1906, no nurse trained at a training-school (general or special) should be admitted to membership of the A.T.N.A. until she had passed the final examination of the Association.

It was also decided that the time had come to require evidence of general education in candidates for training, and it was agreed that in the case of candidates having commenced their training on and after June 1st, 1906, it will be necessary before commencing training to produce proof of having attained to the standard of general education laid down by the Council, and the Council were empowered to make the necessary arrangements and by-laws for carrying out the schemes for the final examination and the educational test. As regards the educational test, it was proposed in the draft scheme, laid before the members by Dr. Blackburn, that applicants for admission into any hospital recognised as a training-school by the A.T.N.A. should apply in the first instance to the Matron of such hospital, and by her should be referred to a committee, to be known as the Education Committee, of the Association for each State. Upon satisfactory proof that the applicant was in possession of any of certain approved education certificates, such as having passed a University Examination or the sixth standard of a primary public school, the Education Committee should certify that the applicant was entitled to be admitted as a probationer into a recognised training-school. Where the candidate was not in possession of such a certificate the Education Committee should require her, before commencing her training, to pass an examination in general education under its supervision. Such examination would include reading aloud, a composition or essay on some simple subject, and preliminary arithmetic. This is a step which cannot fail to be of benefit to nursing organisation in Australia, and we congratulate the Association on its adoption. As Dr. Sinclair Gillies pointed out at the annual meeting, the central examination already exists in Victoria, and also in New Zealand, where it is enforced by Government, and New Zealand has refused to grant reciprocity to the Australasian Association until the central examination is established.

Dr. Fiaschi has been appointed President of the Association in the place of Dr. Thring.

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