

The Society for the State Registration of Nurses.

The quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee of the above Society was held at the offices, 431, Oxford Street, London, on Friday, October 6th, Miss Isla Stewart in the chair. The minutes having been read and confirmed, Miss Stewart made sympathetic reference to the death of her eminent countrywoman, Miss Flora Stevenson, LL.D., a Vice-President of the Society, and proposed the following resolution, which was passed unanimously, and directed to be forwarded to the President, Miss Louisa Stevenson, sister of the deceased:—

"The Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses desire to express to their President, Miss Louisa Stevenson, their sorrow at the death of her sister, Miss Flora Stevenson, and their sympathy with her in her bereavement. They also desire to record their sense of the loss sustained by the Society in the passing from this world of so noble a woman, and their appreciation of her work and life."

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Hon. Secretary stated that the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Registration of Nurses presented their Report to the House on July 25th last, when it was ordered to be printed, in which it was stated that "Your Committee are agreed that it is desirable that a Register of Nurses should be kept by a Central Body appointed by the State." Thus the fundamental principle of their demands had been conceded. The Blue Book and appendices had also been published.

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

As the Bill did not secure a place in the Ballot, it was presented by Mr. R. C. Monro-Ferguson, and read a first time, but did not come on for a second reading.

PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION.

The Medical Council of the Orange Free State had inaugurated a system of Registration of Nurses, one clause of which interfered with the liberty of conscience of nurses.

American nurses were to be congratulated that the Legislatures in five States had passed Bills for the Registration of Nurses this year—in Indiana, California, Colorado, Connecticut, and Illinois, the Governor of the latter State had vetoed the Bill for the second time.

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF NURSES.

The resolution of sympathy passed unanimously at the Convention of the American Federation of Nurses held in Washington, U.S.A., was presented.

FINANCE.

The Society was solvent with £20 in hand, a satisfactory condition resulting from the munificence of the President, who had sent another £10, making in all £30 this year, and by the generosity of a few members who had subscribed handsomely to meet

the extraordinary expenses entailed upon the Society in preparing evidence for the Select Committee, in opposing the application of a society of laymen for incorporation by the Board of Trade as the "Society for the Higher Education and Training of Nurses," and in much expensive propaganda.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Several letters of interest were read bearing on the business of the Society, amongst them one from Mrs. Gower, the Local Secretary for Brighton, resigning that position owing to ill-health, and expressing her intention to continue working for the furtherance of the aims of the Society.

A resolution of regret at her resignation, and conveying the thanks of the Committee for her valuable help during the past year, was passed unanimously.

Miss Mulvany, Local Secretary for Bolton, also resigned her official position upon her approaching marriage.

THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Committee was read clause by clause, considered, and great satisfaction was expressed at many of its recommendations. Three recommendations were, however, disapproved:—

(1) That there should be innumerable portals to the profession of nursing by recognising as qualifying for Registration the certificates of hospitals, in place of certification after a uniform examination by a Central Board of Examiners.

Those present were of opinion that there could be no co-ordination of training, or establishment of a minimum standard of education for nurses, unless the examinations were conducted by an unprejudiced central authority.

(2) That the suggested fee of £1 ls. to be paid by nurses for registration would be a quite inadequate sum upon which to conduct the important business of the Central Nursing Council. It was considered that the nurses, as a whole, would prefer to pay more for professional privileges, rather than that their Governing Body should be subsidized from the rates.

(3) That the recommendation that a trained nurse's name should be removed from the Register when she had "ceased nursing" would not be just, as women might cease nursing for various reasons—marriage amongst them—but might again be compelled by circumstances to earn their living by their profession.

Registration by a State Board would constitute a woman a member of a legalised profession, and her right to remain a member of it should only be severed by death or moral delinquency.

It was decided to compare the clauses of the Report with those of the Bill for the Registration of Nurses, in which it was considered advisable to suggest some additions and alterations before its presentation to Parliament next Session.

THE BILL.

Each clause of the Bill was then considered, and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)