

the Treasurer's department. Nursing matters had, he said, been recently in a state of fluctuation. When they steadied down the Association hoped for a large access of members.

Mr. Langton moved the adoption of the Settlement Report, which was seconded by Mrs. Campbell Thompson. He reported that the total income is not sufficient to maintain the home.

DR. COMYNS BERKELEY'S REPORT.

The next item on the Agenda was to receive the Report of the Executive Committee. This report, however, which, according to the Charter, the Executive should present, was not forthcoming, Dr. Comyns Berkeley, the Medical Hon. Secretary, presenting one of his own. This was seconded by Miss Tawney, and carried. It was stated in the Report that 2,500 voting papers had been sent out to elicit the opinion of members as to the constitution of the General Council, and 761 returned.

Dr. Fenwick pointed out that this number coincided exactly with the number of subscribing annual and life members. What was the actual number of members? Had the R.B.N.A. only 761 members who took sufficient interest in its affairs to write even a post card on so vital a question? Dr. Comyns Berkeley said there were 2,463 members, the life members numbering 600. He thoroughly agreed with Dr. Fenwick in regretting that the members took so little interest in their Association, he only wished they would.

IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS.

The next important business was the consideration of Resolutions down on the Agenda in the name of Miss Christina Forrest.

Miss Forrest moved:—

1. "That the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses as drafted and presented by the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. does not express the feelings of the majority of the members of the Association, as, in their opinion, it does not provide for adequate representation of the Nursing Profession in the constitution of the Central Board."

Miss Forrest said that she had formed one of the deputation to Lord Crewe on the State Registration of Nurses, and from what she then observed she was convinced of the importance of all sections of nurses, who are working with this object, pulling heartily together. But the Bill of the R.B.N.A. was an insuperable object to this unity of effort. It was totally opposed to the principles of self-government set forth in the Bill promoted by the State Registration Society, a principle which she knew was most strongly endorsed by the majority of the nurse members of the Association. She appealed to the Hon. Officers and the Executive to remove this stumbling block.

This resolution was seconded by Miss Edla Wortabet, who said that nurses knew their own minds, and were capable of managing their own Association. In the Registration Bill of the R.B.N.A. they were not adequately represented.

Miss Deane said that at the last meeting of the Association every effort was made to make it appear that those who differed from the proposals contained in the R.B.N.A. Bill were unreasonable agitators.

Nothing was further from the truth. None of those who were working in the interests of the nurses would personally benefit by a Registration Act when passed. She thought that the proportion would be a fair one if the Board were composed of ten nurses, five medical practitioners, and one lay person.

Miss Tawney stated her opinion that the majority of members did not desire a majority of nurses on the Board.

Miss Eleanor Clarke said that at the special meeting in January those present were in favour of a majority. At the next meeting this was annulled. It should be remembered that legislation for nurses involved some 80,000 nurses. The members of the R.B.N.A. were not one in a thousand. The nursing profession did not approve of the Bill of the Association, and public opinion was in favour of a majority of nurses on the Board. Why were the members of the Association so few? Because nurses would not be treated with the utter want of consideration and courtesy accorded to them by the Hon. Officers. Whenever members endeavoured to support the principle of self-government they were so insulted that they resigned and left the Association. That was why its members were not one in a thousand of the profession as a whole.

Miss Wortabet pointed to the success of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, and expressed her grief and regret that the R.B.N.A. could not show a similarly successful record.

Miss Grace Gordon hoped the question would not be made one between women and men. They were not there to represent the new woman, and no R.B.N.A. nurses would ever vote for a governing body on which medical men were in a minority, and thus go against their wishes.

Mrs. Latter characterised Miss Gordon's remarks as expressing sound common sense. (Miss Gordon and Mrs. Latter both voted for a minority of doctors in the two previous R.B.N.A. Bills).

Dr. Fenwick questioned the right of these ladies to speak for the medical profession. He pointed out, therefore, that when the first Bill came before the Council of the British Medical Association it expressed the opinion that there were too many medical men on the proposed Governing Body for Nurses. He believed that there was an almost unanimous feeling that doctors had not time to manage nurses' affairs. Successful medical men had not the necessary time to give to it. It was useless for members of the R.B.N.A. to say nurses were not capable of managing their own affairs, because women had proved themselves capable. If the Governing Body created by Act of Parliament did not contain a majority of nurses he believed it would never be able to perform its onerous and numerous duties.

Sir James Crichton Browne said that it seemed to be forgotten that State Registration of Nurses was not proposed in the interest of nurses, though it would confer a great collateral benefit upon them.

It was not desirable to establish a Trade Union, governed by a coterie of Matrons with autocratic tendencies, and of stump orators in petticoats—a hot-headed, indiscreet body. If so, then State Registered nurses would be tabooed, and medical men would make a rule of only employing unregistered

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