

strengthen the hands of those who were working so earnestly in the matter to continue the agitation.

#### RESOLUTION I.

Sir GEORGE COLTHURST then proposed:—

“That this meeting of the representatives of the training schools of the hospitals in Cork observe with the greatest concern the attitude of the Irish Local Government Board towards State Registration of Irish Nurses.”

In proposing the Resolution Sir George Colthurst said he could not understand how it could enter into the mind of anybody to carry out such a policy of exclusion as that proposed in this Bill. The result would be, if such a course were persisted in, that every Irish nurse who wanted to get on in her profession would be obliged to go over to England and get trained in one of the hospitals there. He could hardly believe such a thing possible, but he was told that the proposal emanated from the Irish Local Government Board. It seemed to be so extraordinary that when it was first mooted the suggestion was made that the secretaries of the different hospitals should meet together and form a committee, and should appoint a deputation to go before the Local Government Board in reference to it. Lord Crewe, however, had undertaken to bring in an amendment, what that amendment specifically was he did not know; but it was their duty on behalf of the hospitals, the patients, and the nurses who had been trained or were being trained in their hospitals, to make a protest, and he thought it would be well worth while to carry out the suggestion of the Irish Nurses' Association, and ask the Lord Mayor to hold a public meeting of the citizens and let the light of public opinion in on this question. If this amendment which Lord Crewe had promised to introduce was not a proper amendment, or if, being a proper one, it was not carried, the effect would be undoubted injury to the hospitals, the nurses, and the public of the whole country. He felt certain, however, that if the matter were properly put and if the demand were backed by the public and in the press, the danger which this proposed exclusion of Irish nurses from the scope of this Bill threatened would be obviated. It would be their duty, he thought, to form a committee, and, if necessary, to hold a public meeting, and so strengthen the hands of their representatives in Parliament. They had plenty of friends in the House of Lords, and it was entirely in the interest of the public and the nurses that he proposed his resolution.

The Very Rev. Canon McNAMARA, who

seconded the Resolution, said it was their duty to take action in regard to the Bill. It was an extraordinary procedure that this exclusion clause should be introduced into it, and that Irish nurses should be deprived of the privileges of State Protection and State-patronage, given to their sisters across the Channel. It was their duty to be watchful, and to form a business committee of the members of the boards of nursing schools to co-operate with the people in Dublin, and press their claims on the Government through the medium of their representatives in Parliament. They in Ireland asked for no privilege or favour for their nurses. They wanted only fair play, for their nurses were able to compete with the best qualified of their profession in the three Kingdoms. They had won golden opinions from institutions in England, and there were requests again and again for more Irish nurses for hospitals there. The Irish members should carefully watch the new amendments to be introduced, and they in Ireland should be prepared to put their case so strongly that no Government could refuse their demands. If a strong effort were now made they might rest assured that their nurses would get justice and that no subsidiary amendment would shut them in Ireland out from the protection they should enjoy as children of a united Empire.

Mrs. BLUNDEN, representative of the Erinville Hospital, proposed that the meeting send its best thanks to Miss Ramsden, President of the Irish Nurses' Association, for the prompt steps she had taken in the matter. She was afraid they would all have been caught napping had not Miss Ramsden started the matter. They might also assure Miss Ramsden, on behalf of the Cork nurses, that she would have their hearty co-operation.

Professor CORBY desired to know the reasons why the Irish Local Government Board were opposed to the inclusion of Ireland in the Nurses' Registration Bill, and suggested that the Board should be communicated with.

The CHAIRMAN, in replying to the question, said that a communication had been received from the Local Government Board by the Irish Nurses' Association, and the Board definitely refused to give any information. This was only in keeping with the usual action of the Local Government Board; as he well knew.

Sir George Colthurst's resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

#### RESOLUTION II.

Mr. PERRY then proposed:

“That the action of the Irish Office and the Irish Local Government Board in opposing the

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