

The resolution was carried by what appeared a unanimous vote, but the Countess of Aberdeen, who was present, and did not vote, took occasion to point out that the resolution was carried *nemine contradicente*—that is, without opposition.

The Irish nursing world may, however, rest content with the splendid support given by the National Council of Women to the resolution embodying their ardent professional aspirations.

THE INCLUSION OF IRELAND.

Miss Huxley, delegate Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, then moved the following rider to the resolution:—

"That the Prime Minister be respectfully urged to give facilities for the consideration of the Bill in the House of Commons this session, should it pass its third reading in the House of Lords on the 15th inst., and that Ireland be included in the scope of the bill."

Miss Huxley said the most important point for the public was that the central governing body should fix a minimum standard of nursing education. At present there was no standard, good, bad, or indifferent. Agreed.

The Poor Law Infirmary Matrons Association.

The quarterly meeting of the P.L.I.M.A. was held, by the kind invitation of Miss Ward, at the Hammersmith Infirmary, on October 10th. The agenda, "The Consideration of the Registration of Nurses' Bill," was of exceptional interest on account of the Third Reading in the House of Lords taking place at so early a date.

The Provisions of the Bill were most carefully considered by the members of the Association, all of whom (although some individually do not approve of the principle of State Registration) were agreed upon the great importance of safeguarding the interests of Poor Law Nurses, and of closely watching amendments referring to the infirmary training schools.

Miss Ward (in the chair) laid great stress upon the necessity for each member doing all in her power to bring the views of the Poor Law Matrons before Members of Parliament while there is yet opportunity for discussing the Bill. It was proposed and unanimously agreed to send a type-written copy of the proceedings at each meeting in future to the members unable to be present in order to keep them fully in touch with the work of the Association.

After tea Miss Ward conducted her visitors into one of the balconies, from whence a most

excellent view of the end of the Marathon Race was obtained.

The next meeting, of which due notice will be given, will be held on January 30th, 1909.

We are glad to learn that the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association has met to consider the Nurses' Registration Bill, and that it is imbued with the importance of safeguarding the interests of Poor Law nurses. We may, however, remind these nurses that a large number of Matrons of Poor Law infirmaries have been, and are, members both of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and also of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and that these ladies have been working for many years in their professional interests. We hope Poor Law nurses will study the Bill for themselves. They will then realise that their interests have all along been carefully conserved, and that they have under its provisions exactly the same rights and privileges as general hospital nurses. We think that the good work done in this particular by Miss J. A. Smith, Matron, Kingston-on-Thames, Miss Marquardt, Camberwell, Miss Barton, Chelsea, and Miss H. Todd, Wandsworth, all of whom have seats on the Executive Committee of the State Registration Society, should be gratefully recognised.

But far beyond the question of the personal interests of any one class of nurse, are the underlying principles of registration, the encouragement of the most efficient nursing of the sick, by the establishment of sound educational standards, and the maintenance of the highest possible ethical standards of conduct throughout the whole profession.

The Children's Bill.

The Children's Bill, which was read for a third time in the House of Commons on Monday last, contains one proviso which will come as a surprise to most people. In connection with the Clause "If any person give, or cause to be given, to any child under the age of five any intoxicating liquor, except upon the order of a fully-qualified medical practitioner or in case of sickness, or apprehended sickness, or other urgent cause, he shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding £3." Mr. Rawlinson moved to insert after the words "fully qualified medical practitioner" the words "or nurse," an amendment which was agreed to without debate, though Lord Robert Cecil subsequently pointed out that there is at present no legal definition of a nurse.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)