

the present disorganised condition of nursing education it would be some years before the good effects of legislation would become apparent, but at last, after 20 years' hard work, a beginning was to be made. The Resolution was passed unanimously.

Miss Rogers then proposed a rider that the Resolution should be forwarded to every member of the House of Lords. This was seconded, and passed by acclamation. Later, Miss Rogers handed a donation of five pounds to Mrs. Fenwick from the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, towards defraying the necessary expenses in connection with the Bill.

Several members of the medical profession present took part in the proceedings, and expressed approval of the new Nursing Service as a practical expression of patriotism. On Nurses' Registration the medical faculty in Leicester have always taken a very liberal and helpful attitude, and they expressed the great interest they felt in the progress of the Bill.

Hearty votes of thanks were given to Miss Hughes and Mrs. Fenwick for their addresses, and to Dr. Pope for presiding, and at the termination of the meeting the tempting tea tables were speedily surrounded, and the pleasures of social chat and the renewing of old friendships were soon in full swing.

Nurses' Leagues, which are still in their infancy, are indeed marvellous factors in the social reform movements of the day; and in bringing nurses into touch with one another, and professional matters to the clear perception of the public generally, their educative value is illimitable.

The Matrons' Council.

On November the 6th, a meeting of the Matrons' Council was held at 431, Oxford Street, W., to which had been invited delegates from the self-governing Nurses' Societies, to receive a report of the work for and progress of the Nurses' Registration Bill, presented to the House of Lords by Lord Ampthill on June 23rd.

Miss Isla Stewart presided, and was supported by a large gathering of members and others interested in the registration question; and many letters were received from those unable to attend.

Amongst them one from Miss E. S. Haldane, LL.D., Chairman of the Scottish Registration Committee, regretting inability to attend, and reporting that a strong resolution in favour of the Bill had been passed in Edinburgh on the

previous day, and forwarded to the Lord President of the Council. Miss Ramsden and Miss Kelly wrote from Dublin that a meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association would be held to consider action on the Bill on the 7th inst.

Miss Stewart gave an admirable resumé of the registration campaign, and referred to the attacks made on the Council in the press, by the leading members of the anti-registration organisation, and the attempt to deprive the Societies which had promoted the Bill now before Parliament of their rightful representation on the First Nursing Council. Miss Stewart explained that the Matrons' Council, the Society for State Registration, and the Irish Nurses' Association, were the only three societies entirely composed of nurses accorded representation, the other three named being mixed societies of medical men, laymen, and nurses, so that she had taken prompt action to place the whole matter before the Lord President of the Council. Miss Stewart read the admirable memorandum she had handed into the Privy Council in person.

Miss M. Breay, the Hon. Secretary, read an exhaustive report embodying the activities of the Council during the past six months which was adopted.

A conference was then held as to the best methods of furthering the progress of the Nurses' Registration Bill, should it pass through its third reading in the House of Lords on Tuesday, the 10th November, and two resolutions, proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, were seconded respectively by Miss H. L. Pearse and Miss Cox Davies, and carried, everyone present engaging to use her personal influence in support of the Bill. Miss H. Todd brought the vexed question of the status of Matrons under the Metropolitan Asylums' Board before the Council, it having been proposed to advertise for a Matron for the Children's Infirmary, Carshalton, without the sanction of the Local Government Board. This was considered to evade the Local Government Board Order—that makes it compulsory to obtain sanction to advertise for principal officers, so that it was feared that the Matron would not hold that rank—and a sub-committee was appointed to investigate the matter, and take such steps as were necessary. It was suggested that the Fever Nurses' Association was a body which might well take action on such a question, affecting as it might do in the future the status of all Matrons inducted into the service of the Metropolitan Asylums' Board.

The meeting then terminated.

M. BREAY, *Hon. Secretary.*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)