

## CONFERENCE DAY.

### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, London, W., on Thursday, June 17th, at 11 a.m. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the Society, was in the chair.

As usual the platform was charmingly decorated with flowers, the national colours, red, white, and blue, in plants and cut flowers, forming the colour scheme this year.

Letters of regret from members unable to be present were reported, and the President read one from Mrs. Strong, President of the Scottish Nurses' Association, who wrote that she was very glad in these strenuous times that the Society was able to keep in view the great necessity for a standard of nursing proficiency, which will be still more urgently needed at the close of this war than now.

There would naturally follow a great abuse from the present necessity of using so much voluntary aid. The three months' so-called training would add to the difficulty, as many, in consequence of this, would profess to be trained nurses.

The names and qualifications of fifty-two applicants for membership were then read by the Chairman, put to the meeting on the proposition of Miss F. Marquardt, seconded by Miss M. Mollett, and carried.

#### THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Hon. Secretary, Miss M. Breay, then presented the thirteenth Annual Report and Audited Accounts, which stated that, though public attention, since the last Annual Meeting, on July 16th, 1914, has been naturally centred on the events connected with the European War, yet the urgency for passing a Nurses' Registration Bill was never greater than at the present time.

On the outbreak of War, when literally thousands of nurses were offering their services to the British Red Cross Society, there was no available record of their qualifications, nor had any independent investigation of these been made and registered. . . . Had a State Register of Trained Nurses been in force, the trained nurses would have had a definite status, and those chosen for duty in responsible charge of the sick would naturally have been selected from amongst those enrolled on the State Register; the unskilled help, willingly offered, could then have been utilized under the supervision of trained nurses.

No more striking demonstration of the need for nursing legislation could possibly have been afforded to the country.

Although at the present time party legislation was out of the question, the organization of the

profession of nursing was not a party question, and the time seemed opportune, and the matter urgent, for the consideration by Parliament of the Nurses' Registration Bill.

The Report stated further that 113 new members had been elected during the year, bringing the total membership up to 3,576.

The Nurses' Registration Bill, in charge of Major Chapple, M.P., had not been introduced into the House of Commons this year, as owing to the procedure agreed upon, on the proposition of the Prime Minister, at the beginning of the Session there had not been facilities for the discussion of Private Members' Bills.

It was also stated that Dr. Christopher Addison, M.P., who for several years had backed the Nurses' Bill, had now entered the Government, and this promotion prevented his backing a Private Members' Bill, but Dr. Addison had given the assurance that his sympathy with the object of the Bill remained as before.

The Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association at its meeting in Aberdeen had once more endorsed the principle of State Registration of Nurses.

The Society had signified its support of the resolution to be proposed by the Legislation Sectional Committee at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women in London on October 5th and 6th next, re-affirming the resolution passed by the Council in 1908 in support of State Registration, and urging that in view of the majority in favour of the Nurses' Registration Bill on its first reading in the House of Commons in 1914, the Prime Minister be respectfully urged to grant facilities for a similar Bill next year.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the contingent of fifty nurses from New Zealand sent to the assistance of the Mother Country all wore the State Badge, showing that they were registered nurses in the Dominion. Registered nurses from Ontario and Manitoba had also arrived with the Canadian contingents.

Registration laws had recently been passed in North Dakota and Maine in the United States, bringing the number of States in which Registration is now in force up to forty-two.

The Society had again to thank the Committee of the Registered Nurses' Society for the use of their Board Room free of cost for its meetings.

The remark made by the President that the New Zealand nurses had received their proper fee was greeted with applause. On the proposition of Mrs. Tuckett, seconded by Miss Elma Smith, the report was unanimously adopted.

It was agreed to send a vote of congratulation to Dr. Addison on his appointment to office.

#### THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS.

The Audited Accounts showed a balance in hand of £33 4s. 6d.

The President pointed out that the Society had always kept a nest egg, and that the

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