

**PROVINCIAL MEETINGS IN SUPPORT OF  
THE BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.**

CAMBRIDGE.

ON the 14th inst. a large meeting took place at Addenbrooke's Hospital. The chair was taken by Professor Sir George Paget, and there were present Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss East, of the National Hospital, Queen-square; Professor Humphry, Dr. Lawrence Humphry, Mrs. Roy, Miss Löhr, Lady Superintendent of the Nursing Institution; Miss Moriarty, Matron of the Rous Memorial Hospital, Newmarket; Miss Cunningham Graham, late Matron of the Convalescent Hospital at Rhyl; Miss Wood, and Miss Mollett, the Deputation from the Association; and a large number of other Matrons, Sisters, Nurses, and Probationers from Institutions in the town and surrounding country.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said that amongst those who had taken the lead in the formation of the British Nurses' Association were many who were known to those present, and in whom they had the greatest possible confidence. He then called attention to the objects of the Association, which were—“1. To unite all qualified British Nurses in membership of a recognised profession. 2. To provide for their Registration on terms satisfactory to physicians and surgeons, as evidence of their having received systematic training. 3. To associate them for their mutual help and protection, and for the advancement, in every way, of their professional work. With a view to the attainment of these objects, it shall be the immediate aim of the Association to obtain a Royal Charter incorporating the Association, and authorising the formation of a Register which shall include all Nurses, as described in Bye-Law IV., applying for Registration before the first day of January next following the granting of the Charter, and such Nurses at subsequent dates as shall fulfil the conditions which the Charter may prescribe.” He said those objects seemed to him good ones; there had been a great deal of improvement in Nursing in his time, not only in hospitals, but also in private Nursing. He had often noticed the advances which had been made in the medical profession, but not one of them had done so much for the benefit of society at large as those that had been made in Nursing, which, he believed, had occasioned an enormous saving of life. Anything which would extend or give permanency to a good high standard of Nursing was a thing which everyone who knew anything about the matter could not help heartily supporting. (Applause.)

Miss Wood then addressed the meeting, and pointed out the necessity for such an Association as that in connection with which they were met. She

said, at present, if persons only stayed at a hospital for six weeks, they could call themselves Trained Nurses, and might be entrusted with cases which they knew nothing about, and one of the great needs of the day was that Nurses should be thoroughly trained for their profession. To do that, all Nurses should have their names entered in a register, such as was kept of the members of the medical profession, and no one should be entered as a Nurse unless having a certificate of capability. They wanted to get a Royal Charter giving permission to carry out that scheme, and unless a large body of Nurses joined the Association that could not be done. There were 15,000 Nurses in the United Kingdom, and, if only a few of these applied for the Charter, Parliament would not grant it. There was nothing in the bye-laws of the Association to interfere with a contract between the employer and employed, as it left the Nurse free to engage herself to any hospital she chose, whilst the authorities would have the power to discharge that Nurse if they thought fit to do so. Nurses would be benefited to a great extent by joining the Association, and they would help to save the sick from those who had no right to call themselves Nurses.

The meeting was then addressed by Miss Mollett, a full report of whose speech appears in another column; and then Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was so loudly called upon, that she was compelled to speak. We have been fortunate enough to obtain the reporter's notes of her speech, but the pressure on our space compels us to defer its publication till next week. An animated and most interesting discussion followed, and resolutions were passed unanimously recognising the great importance of Registration, and thanking the Chairman and the speakers for their addresses. We are informed that everyone who was eligible to join the British Nurses' Association at once did so.

LEICESTER.

This was held in the Board Room of the County Infirmary on the 15th inst. Mr. Marriott took the chair. Dr. Blunt, Mr. Bond, Mr. Franklin, Miss Rogers (the Matron), and about forty other Matrons, Sisters and Nurses were present, including about six from the Nursing Institution, and some from Macclesfield.

Mr. MARRIOTT introduced the business by speaking of the British Nurses' Association as having his cordial support and most sincere good wishes. He was quite in favour of Registration, and urged the good work that it would do by providing a means of distinguishing between a trained and an untrained Nurse. He also pointed out the benefit of an Association for Nurses as enabling them to work out schemes for their own benefit, &c.

Miss Mollett was overcome by her exertions of the previous day, and was not present.

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