

Miss WOOD spoke of the present and increasing demand for trained Nursing, especially in private families; of the disorganised state of the profession; want of co-operation, want of system, want of status; the wrong done to the public and also to Trained Nurses by the intrusion of untrained, or, worse, half-trained women into their ranks, and competing with them on terms of equality; the need of combined action on the part of the Nurses to remedy this; how it was an individual question especially of interest to country nurses. She pointed out that the remedy was to obtain a Royal Charter to legalise Registration, and showed what this meant; how it was to be worked; its action present and future; and how it would raise the whole tone of the profession. She also mentioned several benevolent schemes that would accrue from association, and insisted upon the right of Nurses to manage their own affairs. She especially proved, however, that though such a combination would bring into action a most powerful body, no fear of trades unionism could exist.

After a long and free discussion, it was unanimously resolved—"That it is the opinion of this meeting that the time has come for Registration of Trained Nurses under a Royal Charter." Other questions were discussed, and votes of thanks to the chairman and to Miss Wood concluded a most interesting meeting.

#### LINCOLN.

This meeting was held on the 16th inst., in the Board Room of the Lincoln County Hospital, Dr. Mitchison, Senior Physician, in the chair. Mr. Simpson, Mr. A. B. Brook, Miss Beachcroft, Matron of the Hospital, Miss Bromhead, Senior Superintendent, Miss Marshall, and a large number of Sisters and Nurses. The Chairman opened the meeting by briefly glancing at the objects of the Association, and said that anything that would benefit Nurses, or raise the tone of the profession, had his cordial approval. He drew a contrast between the nursing of the past and present days, and spoke of the great debt that the profession and public owe to Nurses. He spoke of the long established Nursing Institution of Lincoln, and then introduced the work of the evening.

Miss WOOD explained the reason for the action of the Association, the disjointed state of the profession, the scandal of so-called Trained Nursing, the mischief done by allowing untrained Nurses to undertake the care of patients; the wrong done by these women competing with skilled Nurses, and lowering the standard of Nursing, and its estimation in the public mind; and the inevitable deterioration of the profession if this be allowed to go on unchecked. She proved the urgent need for Nurses to be up and looking after their own interests, union being the first and wisest thing to be done. She discussed

the necessity of a Royal Charter to legalise Registration, and showed how country Nurses would be affected, and their position improved. Thereafter, she said, the Association would undertake all kinds of benevolent schemes; but everything depended on combination among the Nurses.

Miss MOLLETT practically repeated the address she gave at Cambridge.

An animated discussion followed, on the effect of association on private Nursing Institutions, on the question of trades unionism, and on the want of connection of the Association with the Pension Fund.

On the question of a Royal Charter and Registration, unanimous approval was expressed.

The question of examinations was freely discussed, and many misconceptions were cleared away.

Votes of thanks to the chairman and to the Deputation concluded the meeting.

#### NOTTINGHAM.

A meeting was held, by the kind permission of the governing body, on the 18th inst., in the Board-room of the General Hospital. Dr. Claude Taylor, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Kingdon, Miss Rimmington, and a considerable number of the Nurses on the staff of the Hospital, Miss Morse and some of her Nurses, Miss Martin and Miss Forrest were present.

Miss C. J. WOOD, Hon. Secretary of the Association, briefly sketched the present position of Trained Nurses. She pointed out the want of organisation in the profession, the scandal at present existing that any woman with the most casual training, or none at all, might call herself a Nurse and undertake the care of the sick, and no one could forbid it; that the standard of knowledge necessary for a Nurse varied with the hospital, and that Nurses at present were individual units with no means of influencing the work of their calling. The speaker drew attention to the fact that nursing the sick was the favourite profession for women, and that if untrained Nurses were allowed to compete in the open market with Trained Nurses, and could command the same remuneration, in the end the profession would be overstocked, and the standard of proficiency lowered. And, moreover, there was a wrong done to women who gave up so many years of their life and submitted to the discipline of hospital life, if at the end they only stood on the same level as the untrained or half-trained Nurse who at present competed with them. Miss WOOD urged on the Nurses present to join the association, that by the weight of numbers they might create a public opinion in the matter, for though they were so fortunately circumstanced as to be connected with a high-class training school, there was nothing to hinder a Nurse dismissed from that hospital for inefficiency, or other cause, calling herself a Nottingham Trained Nurse, and then practising her profession, to the manifest harm of the public and of Trained Nursing.

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