

tion of such a scheme, to make lower charges for its employées than other similar Institutions have found necessary or profitable. And when the Home had been in full working order for a certain number of months, or years, and had, perchance, been successful enough to pay back all the expenses originally incurred by the Hospital in floating it, other reasons would then arise against any reduction being made in the charges originally decided upon. But to these we must refer at further length on some future occasion.

### THE BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

#### MEETING IN YORK.

ON November 5th a Meeting was held in the Committee-room of the York County Hospital for the purpose of hearing an address on the objects of the British Nurses' Association by Miss C. J. Wood, the hon. secretary, and for taking such steps as might be deemed necessary to promote the success of the Association. There was a good attendance, particularly of ladies and Trained Nurses. The Dean had promised to preside, but he was unable to be present. In his absence Dr. Matterson, J.P., occupied the chair, and there were also present the Hon. Payan Dawnay, Rev. H. Lowther Clarke, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Petch, Dr. Ramsay, Dr. Hingston, Dr. Hewetson, Mr. Jalland, Mr. H. C. Shann, Mr. Hitchcock, Mr. Williams, Mr. R. H. Feltoe, Mr. J. Richardson, Mr. E. Woods, and other leading Medical gentlemen, the Matron of York County Hospital, the Sister in Charge of the York Nurses' Home, and the late Matron of Worcester Hospital. Letters approving of the objects of the meeting had been received from Lord Wenlock, Dowager Lady Wenlock, Lady Emma Purey-Cust, the Hon. Egremont Lascelles, the Lady Superintendent of Leeds Infirmary, and also from the Women and Children's Hospital, Leeds, Hull Infirmary, Harrogate Cottage Hospital, and Boston Hospital.

The CHAIRMAN briefly explained the objects of the meeting, pointing out that the British Nurses' Association was quite an undenominational Association.

Miss C. J. WOOD, in explaining the objects of the British Nurses' Association, remarked that in plain words Nurses wanted Registration in order to protect themselves from persons who were unqualified or untrained. Medical men were Registered, and obtained Certificates showing that they were able to undertake the treatment of patients. Although Nurses wanted Registration, they did not wish to put themselves on the same footing as the Medical profession, but they desired

a proper Certificate that they were able to discharge the duties of a Nurse. Even plumbers and schoolmasters were now seeking Registration, and Nurses therefore thought that it was a proper step to take for their own defence. She explained the great difference between a Trained Nurse and one not acquainted with the duties. When a Doctor left a patient in charge of a Trained Nurse he had every confidence in her, because he knew that she would be able to administer properly the medicine, and would be able to detect if a serious change took place in the patient, and at once give an alarm. Very serious consequences sometimes resulted from persons who were not more than half trained describing themselves as properly Trained Nurses and undertaking the duties. She gave several instances where persons who had been employed in another position at an Infirmary or Hospital had afterwards, without undergoing any training, gone out as Nurses. Such cases acted very detrimentally to the profession. A Royal Charter would have to be obtained before the Nurses could be Registered, and it was proposed to make the qualification of membership of the Association, three years' work. Nurses have hitherto been unorganised, but now the Association is formed, any Nurse who stands alone in future has only herself to blame.

In answer to Dr. Tempest Anderson, Miss WOOD stated that the General Medical Council had promised the Association every help, and leading members of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons had done the same.

Mr. H. RICHARDSON asked if there would be a uniform class of Nurses or a gradation?

Miss WOOD explained that there would probably be a minimum standard for all Nurses, but there should also be something in the way of a higher standard, so that everybody should not be maintained at one level.

Mr. RICHARDSON asked how the Association would defend itself against the Nurses who had not been properly trained, but merely worked for three years?

Miss WOOD said a difficulty existed, but it would be overcome in time. When the Charter was obtained they would be obliged to Register every woman *en bloc* who had worked at Nursing for payment, but afterwards Nurses would only be admitted after some test of their fitness had been imposed, and the inferior ones would fall out of the profession in course of time.

Dr. HINGSTON asked whether it was intended to include Asylum Nurses?

Miss WOOD replied in the affirmative. There was no reason why they should not go on to the Register like other Nurses if they came up to the standard of proficiency.

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