

Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, President Royal South Hants Nurses' League; Margaret Breay, Vice-president League of St. John's House Nurses, Hon. Secretary Matrons' Council; Helen Munro Ferguson, Vice-President Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses; Fanny Lumsden (of Belhelvie), Vice-president; F. M. Roberts Austen, Chairman Womersley Parish Council, P.L.G., Vice-president; Flora C. Stevenson, LL.D., Chairman of the Edinburgh School Board, Vice-president; Ruth Homan, Member of the London School Board, Vice-president; May Tennant, formerly H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories, Vice-president; Clara Belasyse Myers, President Millom Nursing Association, Vice-president; Madelaine Greenwood, late Hon. Secretary Society of Women Journalists Vice-president; E. S. Haldane, Vice-president; A. M. MacDonnell, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent Richmond Hospital, Dublin, Member Irish Nurses' Association, Vice-president; J. Kildare-Treacy, Lady Superintendent City of Dublin Nursing Institution, Member Irish Nurses' Association, Vice-president; S. E. Hampson, Member Irish Nurses' Association, Vice-president; M. F. Bostock, Lady Superintendent Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, Vice-president; Euphemia Ross, Matron Western Hospital, Fulham, Delegate Matrons' Council on Executive Committee; Rosamund Grace Hayward, Delegate League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses on Executive Committee; Laura P. M. Baker, Delegate League of St. John's House Nurses on Executive Committee; Eleanor Richardson, Matron Stockport Infirmary, Hon. Secretary, Cheshire; Frederica M. L. Groves, Hon. Secretary, Gloucestershire; Henrietta C. Poole, Matron East Lancashire Infirmary, Blackburn, Local Hon. Secretary; K. Macintyre, Matron Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, Local Hon. Secretary; Margaret F. Mulvany, Matron Bolton Infirmary, Local Hon. Secretary; B. L. Greenlaw, Matron Allt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport, Hon. Secretary, Monmouthshire; Helen L. Pearse, Superintendent of Nurses North Staffordshire Infirmary, Hon. Secretary, Staffordshire; Annie Barling, Matron Kidderminster Infirmary, Hon. Secretary, Worcestershire; F. Cicely Gower, Hon. Secretary, Brighton; Rachel Foley, Matron Royal Hospital, Richmond, Hon. Secretary, Surrey; Esther Emery, Lady Superintendent Nurses' Home, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Local Hon. Secretary; Sophia Cartwright, Secretary Registered Nurses' Society, Member Executive Committee; Frances E. Marquardt, Matron St. Giles' Infirmary, Camberwell, Member Executive Committee.

We regret we have not space in which to insert further signatures.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held at 43, Oxford Street, London, W, on Thursday, March 24th, at 4.30 p.m., Miss Isla Stewart in the chair.

The minutes having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary presented the following Report:—

Hon. Secretary's Report.

I beg to report that the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, finally approved and adopted by the members of this Society on Saturday, January 23rd, was introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. Farquharson, M.P. for West Aberdeenshire, on Monday, February 15th. The Bill was influentially backed by the following Members of Parliament:—Sir Thomas Wrightson, Bart., Sir James Joicey, Bart., Sir John Batty Tuke, M.D., Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, K.C., Mr. Hugh Crawford Smith, J.P., Mr. R. C. Munro Ferguson, J.P., Mr. H. J. Tennant, Mr. Alexander W. Black, W. S., Mr. C. E. H. A. Colston, J.P., Mr. H. Trelawney Eve, K.C., and Dr. Thompson.

The Bill has been down for a second reading on several occasions, but has not been reached, as no place was secured

in the ballot for discussing the Bill, and as it has been blocked by Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, acting for the opposition, it cannot be discussed as non-contentious business after 12 o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY BILLS COMMITTEE.

The Parliamentary Bills Committee of this Society has met three times. It has drawn up a memorandum on the nursing question to be used if necessary. The manifesto drawn up against Registration has been considered, and a reply drafted.

At the meeting on March 9th a resolution was adopted asking the Committee of Medical Members of the House of Commons to receive a deputation from this Society, to "invite its consideration of the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the whole nursing question."

The Medical Committee expressed their willingness to receive the deputation, and the following ladies attended at the House of Commons on Tuesday, 22nd inst., and were introduced by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick:—The Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, Mrs. H. J. Tennant, Mrs. McKenzie Davidson, Miss Isla Stewart, Miss Barton, Miss Ross, and Miss H. L. Pearse.

Miss Isla Stewart presented a memorandum on the necessity for the organisation of trained nursing on a sound educational and industrial basis. Lady Helen Munro Ferguson spoke from the point of view of the public, and was supported by Mrs. H. J. Tennant. Mrs. McKenzie Davidson presented a resolution from the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland supporting the demand for a Select Committee. The Hon. Secretary presented a resolution to the same effect from the Irish Nurses' Association. Miss Barton referred to the disastrous suggestion to certificate and create a "qualified nurse" after one year's training in a minor training-school under the Poor Law—a recommendation which would not have been possible had a system of Registration been in force.

Miss Ross spoke of the danger to the public from specialists undertaking the nursing of serious cases of illness for which they had not been trained, and Miss H. L. Pearse gave instances from personal experience of the inefficient standard of experience demanded and of the sweating of nurses' labour by proprietary nurses' institutions. Mrs. Fenwick drew the attention of the Committee to the chaotic condition of nursing in Nursing Homes often run as financial speculations by untrained persons, or conducted on lines least calculated to benefit the patient.

The Committee gave a most courteous hearing to the deputation, and promised to urge the early appointment of a Select Committee to deal with the subject.

(To be continued)

Mental Hospitals in 1953.

THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS in mental hospitals increased during 1953 by 2,096, compared with an average increase during the past five years of 1,309. The total number of patients under treatment for mental illness at the end of 1953 was 151,378, of whom 139,135 were in mental hospitals.

These figures given in the Annual Report for 1953 of the Board of Control, published recently as a White Paper.*

Mental hospitals provide accommodation for 123,157 patients. For various reasons 2,945 beds were not available for use, and the hospitals were, therefore, overcrowded to the extent of 18,923 patients.

Of the beds not in use, the shortage of nurses accounted for 1,099. This compared with 1,640 in 1952, and, states the Report, "the position therefore remains serious." At the end of the year trained nurses numbered 7,712 men and 4,610 women, compared with 7,487 and 4,410 respectively at the end of 1952. Nursing assistants and other nursing auxiliaries

* Annual Report of the Board of Control to the Lord Chancellor, for the Year 1953, H.M.S.O., price 6d.

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