

pital; Miss Atkinson, York Road Lying-in Hospital; Miss Hughes, Kensington Infirmary; Miss de Pledge, Chelsea Infirmary; Miss Anstey, Wandsworth Infirmary; Miss Duffus, Highgate Infirmary; Miss Wesley, St. Georges in the East Infirmary; Miss Lyndon, Shoreditch Infirmary; Miss Griffiths, Lambeth Infirmary; Miss Elma Smith, Cleveland Street Infirmary; Miss Armit, East Dulwich Infirmary; Miss Evans, St. Olave's Infirmary, Rotherhithe; Miss Euphemia Ross, Western Fever Hospital; Miss Ambler-Jones, South Eastern Fever Hospital; Miss Burton, South Western Fever Hospital; Miss Schooling, North Eastern Fever Hospital; Miss Rumball, Swanley Convalescent Hospital; Miss Robertson, St. Helena Home; Mrs. Walter Spencer, Hon. Sec. Royal British Nurses' Association; Miss Sophia Cartwright, Gordon House; Miss Burgess, Royal Orthopædic Hospital, Birmingham; Miss Tanner, Trained Nurses' Institution, Leicester; Miss Curtis, Trained Nurses' Institution, Cambridge; Miss Whitley, Miss H. Kenealy, Miss Annesley Kenealy, Miss York, Mrs. Lancelot-Andrews, Mrs. Grey, Sister Victoria (St. Mary's), and Sisters Mark, President, Ophthalmic, Casualty, Laurence, Hope, Lucas, Rahere, Faith, Martha, Elizabeth, and Surgery, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Miss Antrobus proposed, Mrs. Suckling seconded, and it was carried by acclamation that Miss Isla Stewart be requested to take the chair.

Miss Stewart, having done so, read letters expressive of most kindly sympathy with the movement, and desiring information concerning the result of the Meeting from Mrs. Strong, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow; Miss Louisa Hogg, Head Sister, Haslar; Miss Cureton, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge; Miss Denniston, Sarah Acland Home for Nurses, Oxford; Miss Mary Logan, Royal Infirmary, Perth; Miss Alexander, The Infirmary, Paisley; Mrs. Harbin, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow; Miss E. J. R. Landale, Edinburgh; Miss Parsons, Guest Hospital, Dudley; Miss Handel, District Hospital, West Bromwich; Miss Chambers, Ancoats Hospital, Manchester; Miss H. Laurence, Longton Hospital; Miss F. B. Haughey, Galway Hospital; Miss Frances Hole, National Orthopædic Hospital; the Matron of St. George's Infirmary, Fulham; and Miss Grace Wills, late of the London Hospital. Telegrams of regret at not being able to be present were received from Miss Allen of the General Hospital, Birmingham, and Miss Brew of the London Homœopathic Hospital.

Miss Stewart then addressed the Meeting as follows:—

LADIES,—Before entering upon the business of the meeting, I must express my very great pleasure and satisfaction at seeing so many Matrons here. The very abundant answer to our invitation has

convinced me that many have felt the need of some such society as that which you propose to form this evening. You have heard from the letters I have read to you, that many Matrons who, for very sufficient reasons, cannot be with us to-night, are yet in deep sympathy with our movement, and expect great things as the result. I must also thank you for the honour you have done me in asking me to take the chair; I feel it is no slight matter, for one who is unused to the position, to preside over so many important members of the Nursing profession.

That "Union is strength" is a trite but true proverb. In looking back through history, you will find that all the privileges we enjoy in this most truly free country in the world, have been granted when united efforts to secure them have made it clear that such privileges were strongly desired. In our profession, we have as yet had very little organised union; we have been content to take what privileges have been gained for us, or granted to us by others.

Our lives—I am now speaking of Matrons especially—have been very secluded and apart, and we have mixed very little with each other. In the past—with so many Matrons before me I dare not speak of the present—when many of us were Probationers, this cloistered life led rather to narrowness of view, and a tendency to severity and infallibility. One of the most prominent objects of the new Society will, I think, be to provide a meeting place where Matrons can freely discuss, with closed doors, the many difficult points in their profession, and in so doing find out the possibilities as well as the impossibilities of improvement.

I am sure most of you will agree with me when I say that we want something more in the way of uniformity of education and training in the profession than is the case at present. Certificates are now given for one, two, or three years' training, and Probationers are expected to do private nursing during that time, or not, according to the Hospital they may chance to go to for training. Now, I am not going to express an opinion on this subject, though I have a very distinct one, but I would urge that whatever the standard of training we decide on as best after free and exhaustive discussion, that standard should be maintained as far as possible. I know this is not altogether in the hands of Matrons. They must submit to the authorities of their different Hospitals, but given an intelligent Board of Management, a reasonable Matron who knows what she wants will always find herself listened to, and she will be surprised on looking back to see how much of her own way she has obtained. On this, and kindred subjects, such as examination, certificates, and registration, we have a great field for discussion.

Matrons, especially those who are new to the

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