

was no idea of setting up an independent profession. No Nurse who understood her duty would think of setting up to treat her patient. Her position was that of a hand-maid to the physician, and that should never be forgotten. (Hear, hear). Miss Wood concluded by asking the Medical men and Nurses of the locality to enrol themselves, and invited questions.

Dr. PRANCE, after speaking of the importance of well-trained Nurses, and approving generally of the objects of the Association, asked what sort of examinations Nurses would be expected to pass. It was easy to imagine that educated ladies, many of whom were entering the Nursing profession, would be able to pass a written examination beyond the ability of equally good Nurses, who had not had such advantages. Would there be different standards? Or would the Council lay down an average test, and supplement it with an examination for honours?

Dr. C. BULTEEL said it seemed to be rather a dangerous provision that "every woman actually engaged in Nursing at present" should be eligible for membership. If all women now Nursing were to be accepted, it would be a great misfortune. Was there to be a Registration of Monthly Nurses?

Dr. GREENWAY remarked that there was a time when Medical men were admitted to practice without examination.

Dr. PRANCE: And druggists too.

Miss WOOD said they had to deal with the profession as it existed. There were many Nurses who could do excellent work, but who would be nowhere in a written examination; and it would not be right to exclude them. (Hear, hear.) The idea was to admit members upon certificate from the Hospitals in which they had been employed. They would demand a certificate of consecutive work at one Hospital. The examination would be mainly practical; but, of course, there must be some written work for the theoretical part. The clause to which Dr. Bulteel had taken exception referred to eligibility for Registration only. When the Charter was granted, there would be a "term of grace," during which any person who could prove that she had nursed a case professionally would be entitled to go on. Legislation could not be retrospective. It was a blot, but it could not be prevented. Both the Medical and Dental professions had to submit to the same thing at first. They might have heard of the oft-quoted case of the blacksmith who went on the Dental Register because he had once pulled a tooth. (Laughter.) There was this to be said, that when the inefficient Nurses were on the Register, they would be under some control. Registration would not entitle a Nurse to Membership of the Association.

Dr. SQUARE asked for more information as to the local centres. He thought the Medical members' subscription of 10s. 6d. too high, considering that the only reason for their joining was to give prestige to the Association. (Hear, hear.) It was highly desirable that the Association should make way in the country districts, where the Doctor was much more dependent on the Nurse than in the towns; and as many of the Doctors were men of small means it would be desirable, he thought, to reduce the subscription to 5s.

Miss WOOD stated that every large centre of Nursing would be made a local centre in connection with the Association, with Local Secretary, and the necessary machinery. One feature of the work of the local centre would very probably comprise a course of lectures during the winter session. She undertook to bring the question of Medical members' subscriptions before the Council. In reply to another question, Miss Wood pointed out that the bye-laws reserved to the Council the right to expel a member on cause being shown after proper inquiry.

Further discussion followed, in the course of which questions were asked by some of the Matrons and Nurses, and satisfactorily answered.

Dr. PRANCE proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Wood for her clear and succinct address, and the motion was seconded by Miss Hopkins.

Dr. BULTEEL, in supporting it, said that, as representing the sister Hospital at Devonport, he had listened with a great deal of pleasure to Miss Wood's address. No body of people were more entitled to the sympathy and interest of Medical men than Nurses. If the public Institutions with which they were connected vied with each other, it was a competition in doing good. They might congratulate each other on having in their respective Nursing Staffs a body of women whom they could not but respect and admire. (Hear, hear.) The public were more than ever appreciating the importance and the necessity of Trained Nurses. When the experiment of a Nurses' Training Institution was first tried at Devonport some years ago, it failed for want of public support. A few months ago the Institution was started again, with the modest number of four Nurses; the staff had been since increased to six, all of whom were out, and the Matron had been instructed to engage four more.

The motion was carried unanimously, and Miss Wood, in replying, said this was not to be merely a London society; in fact, the provincial Hospitals were even more keenly interested in the scheme, for their Nurses had far more responsible work to do than those in the metropolitan Hospitals, where there were medical schools.

The meeting then terminated.

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