

the lecturers were properly paid. The plan adopted was that one lecture was given each week. Every Monday night there was a fresh lecture, and on Thursday night it was repeated, thus enabling the nurses who were on duty on Monday to attend it.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (London): Perhaps Miss Huxley will kindly give a little further information on this subject.

Miss Huxley (Dublin) said that the Board described by her was a step in the right direction. It was called the Dublin Metropolitan Technical School for Nurses. Five hospitals took part in it. Candidates who applied for training in these Hospitals were required to pass a preliminary examination before they were accepted at all. The nurses in connection with these Training Schools attended each of the lectures given by the Central Board, as well as a course of lectures on invalid cookery. The nurses were required to gain the certificate of their own Training Schools as well of that of the Central Examining Board.

Miss Sidney Browne (Woolwich) enquired whether it would not be possible that a Nursing Professorship should be attached to the University of London.

Miss Whitlock (London) said that being one of those who had received the preliminary training initiated by Mrs. Strong at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, she should like to bear witness to its value. She thought that one and all who underwent this training fully realised the benefit of the preliminary teaching when they went into the wards. The pupils paid £5 5s. for the lectures they received. She considered that the Preliminary Training given at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary had proved most successful, and a debt of gratitude was owing by the Nursing Profession to Mrs. Strong for inaugurating the system.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in briefly replying said: Miss Stewart said that perhaps she (Mrs. Fenwick) did not realize the almost insuperable difficulties of enforcing a somewhat uniform and practical standard of nursing education. No one could from personal experience of nursing politics realize the difficulties more than herself; but one thing she could not, and did not intend to realize and that was the impossible. Mrs. Fenwick said that she was well aware that the programme of nursing education which she had had the honour of placing before the meeting, was somewhat in advance of the time. But they must have a standard to advance at all. Some of those present might not live to see it adopted, although she intended to make an effort to do so herself; but ultimately some such curriculum would be inaugurated—no doubt by degrees. Because we seldom have the happiness of seeing the desired result of our work, that was no reason why we should not put our hands to the plough; if we sowed the seed, a future generation would enjoy the fruit—we, ourselves, owed much to the now silent pioneer workers of the past. Some definite system of nursing education was inevitable, and every day the hospitals were advancing on progressive lines, not very graciously, perhaps, but still advancing; it was Nature's little way. The Nursing School should be as carefully organised as the Medical School in an efficient hospital. Mrs. Fenwick also considered that it was one of a sister's chief duties, and pleasures, to teach Probationers. No woman was a good all round Sister, who neglected this duty. The duties of Ward Sisters had greatly increased of late years, not only in nursing

the sick, but in training their subordinates to do so efficiently, and the question of increased remuneration might very well be considered; their salaries were usually very inadequate for the services rendered. The pay should increase with increased work, and the arrangement at St. Thomas's Hospital, by which the Matron had an additional salary as Superintendent of the Nightingale Training School, was a wise departure. The teachers of theory, that is the lecturers in nursing schools, should certainly be paid. At St. Bartholomew's Hospital the lecturers to nurses were handsomely paid for the instruction they gave. Mrs. Fenwick said she disapproved of the subscriptions given for charitable purposes being utilised, as at the Middlesex and London Hospitals for maintaining the medical schools attached to hospitals, because centralisation of medical education would be much more economical; but if the medical schools were to be supported by public subscriptions, there was no reason for the time being why the nursing schools should not be developed on the same lines.

The question of central and impartial examinations for nurses presented no insuperable difficulties to her mind; what could be accomplished for men in every profession and public service could also be arranged for women; it resolved itself into a question of £ s. d. Women must claim a larger share of the nation's wealth.

On the question of State Registration, in which Miss Stewart was so warmly interested, Mrs. Fenwick said it was quite certain no Parliament would grant legal status to nurses, in the air. The question would be *what* and not *who* was to be registered. When the time came for them to plead their cause before the House of Commons (unfortunately by proxy) they must go there prepared with proofs that the reforms demanded, were necessary, both for the public and individual good, and they would be required to bring definite data for the conviction of Parliament. So that before the vocation of nursing could be granted legal status, a practical standard of education, examination and certification must be adopted. The consideration of these reforms was what some of the less progressive Hospital Committees and Matrons were postponing. They had, and would, no doubt retard progress, but as hospital managers become more enlightened, and Matrons more liberal minded, these obstructions would give way; all that was necessary was patient persistence.

Mrs. Fenwick considered that the work of the Dublin Metropolitan Technical School alluded to by Miss Huxley was quite on right principles, and would no doubt develop the co-operation amongst training schools for teaching purposes, on wise and economic lines. In this connection it was eminently refreshing to learn that in the University of Texas a Chair of Clinical Nursing had been inaugurated, to which a Woman Professor of Nursing had been appointed, and it would not be impossible for a future University of London to follow this bright example. She could name several ladies present well fitted to adorn such a position—at a handsome salary.

Mrs. Fenwick said she was well aware that the second suggestion in her paper in relation to the best method of organizing a National Association of Nurses on representative lines, was so wide a question, that a week and not an hour would be required to discuss it in all its bearings.

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