

responsible to the governing authority for her own department, but of subordination to the Medical Superintendent who might relegate to her, as an act of grace, the authority necessary for the efficient performance of her work, or who might render her position one of great humiliation in which it was impossible for her to continue with any self-respect. The Superintendent Nurses of the smaller infirmaries, connected with workhouses, had no position at all, being under the control of the Master and Matron, with the result that these positions, instead of being eagerly sought after, were very generally shunned. She urged that the time had come when Workhouse Infirmaries should be recognized as State Hospitals, and, further, that trained nurses in Workhouse Infirmaries should no longer be considered as being on a lower plane than their hospital colleagues.

In the discussion which took place on this paper, Mrs. Finlay, P.L.G., Miss McClure, P.L.G. (Rugby), Dr. Toogood, Medical Superintendent, Lewisham Infirmary, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and Miss Isla Stewart took part.

The next Paper was one by Mrs. Launcelot Andrews, on

"THE NECESSITY FOR A NURSING DEPARTMENT IN ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICES DEALING WITH THE NURSING OF THE SICK."

Mrs. Andrews submitted that one of the lessons learnt from the past, but seldom carried into effect, is that women must, in their work, be subordinate to women, and, further, that professional women are most satisfactorily governed by professional women. She then proceeded to argue that the Army and Navy Nursing Services should be placed under the supervision of a woman who had passed through the recognized curriculum of a large General Hospital, and who had had experience in the organization, direction, and selection of a nursing staff, and, in addition, opportunity to grasp any specialities in the working of the Government Department she was elected to represent.

Mrs. Andrews then pointed out that the Army Nursing Reserve, which is much "en evidence" just now, requires, from its very nature, a trained, experienced and able head. That the members of the Reserve are drawn from "all sorts of hospitals," and form a heterogeneous mass not bound together by the traditions of one Hospital nor are they possessed of any of the *esprit de corps* which would cement a permanent body. It was a matter for rejoicing that a mass of 600 women, so gathered together, and sent into South Africa under no organized supervision, should, in so very many cases, have proved themselves worthy.

The devotion of the nurses has been beyond all praise, but they are woefully understaffed, and lamentably handicapped by want of order and discipline. She was of opinion that the scene of war, in relation to the sick, should have been divided into districts, each in charge of a competent Nurse Superintendent, herself responsible for the work of her subordinates. In conclusion, she moved:—

"That this meeting considers that all Government offices dealing with the nursing of the sick should be organized on an efficient professional basis, and should include a nursing department, the management of which should be under the direction of a trained and certificated nurse. Further, that a curriculum of education and standard of proficiency should be defined for members of the Army Nursing Service."

This was seconded by Miss Lofts, Matron of the Lewisham Infirmary.

After Miss Mollett, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Stewart, and Mrs. Bond had spoken, the resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the International Council of Nurses, then presented a paper on

"THE CELEBRATION BY TRAINED NURSES OF THE NEW CENTURY."

Mrs. Fenwick began by saying that, being somewhat of a clairvoyante, she was satisfied to know that, to the great Tournament of the new century, the fair knight, woman, has sent forth the inviolable Herald of Hope, to sound her coming in the lists, and that the officers of Arms will, therefore, be compelled to declare her armorial insignia—or, in the correct language of heraldry, blazon her Arms—arms which, depicted on her simple Lozenge (women may not bear an escutcheon), set forth her past achievements as the Mother of Mankind. Arms nobly quartered with Life and Love, Labour and other gifts, and the motto of which is "Duty."

Then, after a retrospective glance, Mrs. Fenwick proceeded to tell of the work which lies before, and of the great International Congress of Nurses which is to take place at Buffalo next year. "There is the far radiant West, in the warm heart of that vast continent which throbs with the generous ardour of youth, which reck little of Kings and Causes, but as yet has faith in man and his mission." Here nurses of all nations might easily meet, but two things—time and money—were necessary if European nurses were to take part in these celebrations, and money was difficult to get. But even money was obtainable by co-operation, generosity and thrift. She suggested, therefore, that a Finance Committee should be appointed by the Matrons' Council, with power to add to its number

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