

progressive Boards of Guardians must take an independent line, as they cannot wait for simultaneous action throughout the country.

The Conference at Leeds was opened by Mr. J. W. Tillotson (Halifax). He did not bring forward a cut and dried scheme, but was prepared to submit resolutions as a basis of discussion.

#### RESOLUTION I.

"That this meeting of delegates of Yorkshire Boards of Guardians agrees that it is desirable to have a general uniform standard of training and examination for workhouse nurses in this county."

In proposing the resolution, Mr. Tillotson said that, although they could not get a national system, there was no reason why they should not have a system applicable throughout the county of York. It would, no doubt, have to be taken in hand by experts such as medical officers and superintendents of nursing. In Leeds they had a large medical school connected with the Yorkshire College, affiliated with the Victoria University at Manchester. If this College would take up the examination of nurses, the training would be put on an independent basis, and give more satisfactory results than now attained in workhouse hospitals.

Mr. F. Askew (Sculcoates) thought that after the discussion at Hull they were practically agreed as to the desirability of a uniform system.

Mr. Bernard Young (Sheffield) thought that the standard aimed at would stand before the country as a high one, but he was inclined to think that they should aim at a national, rather than a county, standard. Certificates which bore a national, rather than a county, impress, would be of greater value to nurses.

Dr. Hawkyard (Hunslet) thought that if they waited for the whole country to take up the question, they would wait till Doomsday.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

#### RESOLUTION II.

"That a sub-committee be appointed, representing chiefly medical officers and nursing superintendents, with guardians and clerks, to confer with the authorities of the Yorkshire College, and, if possible, to arrange for a general uniform system of training; and for examinations to be held by examiners appointed by the said authorities. Nurses who, after three years' training, satisfy the examiners, to be presented with a certificate from the Yorkshire College."

Dr. Hawkyard said that if anyone could help them it was the authorities of the Leeds Infirmary, not the Yorkshire College. He thought the Committee should have a free hand in the matter and bring their recommendation before a future Conference.

Mr. R. W. Winter (Hull) remarked that if nurses could pass an examination regulated by the Yorkshire College, they would obtain a status

which they did not now possess. He also thought that an ordinary educational test should be applied to probationers. Some applicants who came before the Hull Board could not write or spell their own names.

After considerable discussion, in which an appreciation of the value of a national standard was several times expressed, it was resolved by a large majority to appoint a Sub-Committee composed of several gentlemen and the following Superintendents of Nursing:—Miss Wilkie (Halifax), Miss Inglis (Leeds), Mrs. Lawson (Hull), and Miss Lightowler (Wakefield).

While most nurses will agree that a national standard is necessary eventually, it is not immediately attainable, and we therefore welcome this movement towards organization, and concentration. Other counties will, no doubt, follow the example set by Yorkshire, and by-and-bye such county societies can amalgamate. But even here their work will not stop. We have talked with many poor-law Superintendents, and we find that their feeling is against the recognition of a separate qualification for poor-law nurses. They should rather work up to the uniform standard to be demanded of all nurses. At present, except in the more advanced infirmaries, the nursing pupils would not be equal to such a test, and a county association such as is proposed in Yorkshire can do immense good in pulling up the less progressive institutions to the level of the county examination proposed. We congratulate the Yorkshire Guardians on their evident desire for progress.

One more point, the importance of admitting only women suitable by temperament and character to the ranks of trained nurses, must not be lost sight of, but the presence of Superintendents of Nurses on the Sub-Committee appointed is a guarantee that this question will receive attention.

### Army Nursing News.

By the courtesy of the Secretary of State for War, we learn that the following Sisters of the Army Nursing Service Reserve are proceeding to South Africa, in the *Avoca* on the 14th, and in the *Canada* on the 19th inst.:—Nursing Sisters J. Grewer, A. R. Allaway, E. M. Bailey, L. E. Mitchell, E. Wilcock, F. E. Scott, C. Nolan, C. Harris, C. Hodgkin, E. B. Hill, K. Beaufoy, E. L. Warren, D. E. J. Wetton, C. A. Calladine, A. E. Davies, A. Luscombe, M. Morrison, M. J. Spencer, S. E. Richmond, C. M. C. Rogers, C. M. Fisher, A. S. Johnston, G. E. Male, J. M. Mortlock, E. Jones, J. Orr, M. G. Barsdorf, C. Macpherson, E. Newbold, C. L. Collins.

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