

announcement in the NURSING RECORD, 209 applications for membership were received, and at the present time 461 members have joined. The Registration Sub-Committee are able to announce, with gratification, that Miss Louisa Stevenson has consented to accept the office of President of the Society. Miss Stevenson's wide knowledge of nursing matters makes her co-operation most valuable.

The following ladies have consented to act as

#### LOCAL HON. SECRETARIES.

Miss Poole, Matron, East Lancashire Infirmary, Blackburn.  
 Miss Barling, Matron, The Infirmary, Kidderminster.  
 Mrs. Groves, Kingswood, Bristol.  
 Miss Mollett, Matron, Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, Southampton.  
 Miss Purvis, Matron, Middlesborough Nursing Association, Middlesborough.  
 Miss J. P. Jamieson, Dorchester.  
 Miss Richardson, Matron, The Infirmary, Stockport.  
 Miss Greenlaw, Matron, All-yr-yn Hospital, Newport, Monmouthshire.  
 Miss Macintyre, Matron, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.  
 Miss Pearce, Superintendent of Nurses, North Staffordshire Infirmary, Hartshill.  
 Miss Knight, Matron, General Hospital, Nottingham.  
 Miss Polden, Lady Superintendent, Royal United Hospital, Bath.  
 Miss Mulvany, Matron, The Infirmary and Dispensary, Bolton.  
 Miss Foley, Matron, Royal Hospital, Richmond.  
 Miss Emery, Lady Superintendent, Nurses' Home, Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
 Miss Louisa H. Hayes, Matron, County Tyrone Hospital, Omagh.  
 Miss Watkins, Acting Superintendent, English Hospital, Cairo.  
 Mrs. Bedford Fenwick kindly consented to act as Hon. Secretary *pro tem*.

(Then followed the Memorandum *re* the State Registration of Trained Nurses, issued by the Council, which has already been published in this journal. Copies may be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.)

On the motion of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Miss Kinnear Adams, of Glasgow, the report was adopted.

The meeting was then thrown open for discussion, when Mrs. Fenwick said that the Matrons' Council now felt that the time had come when it was necessary to form a society having for its sole object the obtaining of a Bill providing for the legal registration of trained nurses. Before such a Bill could be passed it was necessary to enlist the help of the public. In this respect the history of the progress of the Midwives Bill was instructive. So long as it was only the Midwives who asked for registration the movement remained stationary, but since public help had been enlisted steady progress had been made, and medical opposition to the Bill had been borne down.

In reply to a question from Miss Pell-Smith (Leicester) as to the position in the Society, which it was proposed to form, of those nurses who held a two years' certificate of training, Mrs. Fenwick said that the Society would be a body concerned with obtaining the passage of a Bill, not with fixing an educational standard. This would evolve itself. The first thing was the Bill. The history of the medical movement for Registration showed that Parliament would not injure existing interests, and probably all women now working as nurses, who could show that they had received any training, would have to be registered, and it would perhaps be ten or fifteen years before the training of all those who were registered as nurses was in conformity with modern standards. In working for a Bill we must look forward to laying a foundation for the future rather than to the benefit which we ourselves should receive. Further, the curriculum of education laid down as necessary by the Bill could not, in the nature of things, be stationary. Evolution would always make it compulsory to deal with things as they are, but a qualification would have to be defined, as the minimum accepted at the present time, and Parliament might safely be left to protect the interests of those nurses who were trained when a lower standard was in force.

The sooner the question was tackled the better, for whether we approved or not of the strictures passed on nurses with increasing frequency, we could not disguise from ourselves the fact that the feeling of distrust in, and opposition to, nurses was a growing one on the part of the public. In point of fact good and well-trained nurses were suffering for the shortcomings of the hundreds of women who passed as nurses but who had no right to the name.

Miss Barling (Kidderminster) thought it important that all women who claimed to be registered should prove that they had some hospital training. She knew of a former wardmaid, who had received no professional training whatsoever, who was now working as a nurse.

Mrs. Fenwick thought that any Nursing Council called into existence on the passage of an Act would demand a minimum qualification, and nurses desirous of registration would either be required to produce evidence of possessing this qualification or to pass an examination.

Miss Todd (Bournemouth) enquired if Medical Registration came from within or without the profession?

Mrs. Fenwick replied that the history of the movement was to be found in the *Lancet* of former years. The main agitator was Mr. Thomas Wakley, the founder and first Editor of that journal, who found himself in antagonism to the medical schools on the question, and it took

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