

State authorities to undertake the scheme, but one and all have declined to commence so great a work. The Association, therefore, must firmly determine to initiate Registration itself. It is supported in this by many of the leaders of the Medical profession. It is opposed by some, who make vague assertions of evil, but will give no definite facts in proof of their statements, nor any advice or assistance to the Association in formulating any other remedy, although they do not attempt to deny that the grave evils before mentioned are in existence, and on the increase. The General Council therefore, having asked for this advice and assistance from everyone who can give it, finds itself obliged to act on its own initiative. It has decided to open, without further delay, Registers of Nurses and Midwives, and to place on these at once, without payment, the names of Members of the Association. For a few months to come all who have been engaged in Nursing for three years, and possess unexceptionable testimonials of knowledge and character, will be eligible for Registration. But after this brief "period of grace," and thenceforward, only those women who produce Certificates of training from a recognised Nursing School, or Diplomas from an Obstetrical examining body, will be entered on the Registers. When a sufficient number has been enrolled, the General Council proposes to present the petition for a Royal Charter to Her Majesty the Queen in Council. It may be added that the Charter has now been fully drafted, and except for some verbal alterations which may hereafter be made, is practically already prepared.

The first *Conversazione* was held on December 7th, at the Grosvenor Gallery, and was most successful, more than one thousand persons being present, and the expense to the Association being infinitesimal. Six Meetings were held in London during the winter, at which papers were read, followed by interesting discussions. In future, this system will, it is hoped, be carried out simultaneously in many different parts of the country. Local Secretaries have been appointed in many districts, who will probably organise such Meetings for the Members resident in their locality. Meetings have also been held in many towns throughout the country, and during the past season in London, in order to draw public attention to the importance of the work in which the Association is engaged. These culminated in a great Meeting held last week at the Mansion House, and have all been very successful.

The General Council then proposes as the programme of work for the ensuing twelve months (1) the formation of the Registers of Nurses and Midwives; (2) the formation of the

Benevolent Fund; (3) the establishment of one or more Holiday Houses, as funds allow; together with the carrying on of the series of Meetings and social gatherings already initiated. The General Council cannot close this Report without calling the attention of Members to the facts that Her Majesty the Empress Frederick of Germany, at her own gracious request, has been elected a Vice-President of the Association; and that it behoves each individual member to recognize most gratefully the assistance which the Association has received from the valuable advice and steadfast support of its President, H.R.H. Princess Christian, the value of which to the Association the General Council feels has been, and must be, quite incalculable. (Loud Applause.) Looking back at the great success which has already been obtained, the Members may well take heart of grace, and confident in the justice of their cause, unite together in earnest wish and powerful effort to secure a still greater measure of success in the future. (Loud Applause.)

Dr. MACALISTER: I have been asked, at very short notice, to propose the first formal resolution. It is, "That this Report be adopted and printed, together with an alphabetical list of the Members' names, and such other information as is deemed advisable, and circulated amongst the Members." The report has come upon me as a very agreeable surprise. I have heard adverse remarks in London, and took it for granted that some of them must be true; but when I hear that nearly twenty-six hundred Members have joined already, I think I shall disregard such rumours in the future. When I hear, not only that in this United Kingdom, but also in lands across the sea, branches are being formed, I think the moral idea has already been firmly established. Professor Humphry will be able, no doubt, to speak to you of the advantages from the surgical side of Trained Nursing. I, as a very humble member of the fraternity of Hospital Physicians, am greatly indebted to the Nurses of the Hospital for help and assistance, and, certainly, for the carrying out of instructions better than I can frame words to tell. Those connected with Hospital work know that without skilled Nursing their efforts would be in vain. Therefore I view with pleasure the formation of this Association, helping Nurses not only to help themselves, but also to raise the standard of the meaning of the expression "a Trained Nurse." (Applause.) In moving the resolution, all I need say is that I think the best possible advertisement for our Association would be simply to publish the facts you have heard to-day. Without even canvassing for further support, I am sure such a plain state-

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