

Registration at the Fountain Hospital.

A well-attended meeting, convened by Miss Villiers, the Matron of the Fountain Fever Hospital, Tooting Graveney, to discuss the question of State Registration, was held in the nurses' sitting-room in that institution on Thursday, January 29th. Dr. Matthews, the Medical Superintendent, took the chair, and introduced Mrs. Bedford Fenwick as the speaker. Besides one of the assistant medical officers and nurses of the Fountain Hospital, some of the staff of the Grove Hospital were present, and quite a number of the Matrons of other hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

Mrs. Fenwick spoke at length on the Registration question, dealing with it from the educational, professional, and industrial standpoints, and mentioned and disposed of some objections urged against Registration for Nurses. The audience followed her remarks with sympathetic interest, and at the conclusion of her address gave a hearty expression of opinion in favour of the principle of State Registration.

Miss Villiers asked a question as to the fee for Registration. She concluded it would be paid at the time of Registration, and would not be an annual charge.

Mrs. Fenwick replied that she should be strongly opposed to any system of annual licensing, such as was proposed and withdrawn in the cases of midwives, and which would practically place nurses on a level with hawkers and cabmen. She thought that a fee for Registration bearing some proportion to a nurse's income should be paid once and for all. Women usually managed their business affairs on an economical basis, and she thought probably £1 ls. would be found a sufficient and just Registration fee.

Dr. Matthews, in thanking the speaker for her address, said it had explained the case for Registration in a way which had made him understand the question more thoroughly than he had done before. No one, however, realised the necessity for the movement, and the adoption of a standard of nursing education, better than the Medical Superintendents and Matrons of the great fever hospitals, who were brought into contact with nurses with such a diversity of certificates. What the nursing profession needed was organisation. The great professions into which men had organised themselves taught them that lesson.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a "lovely" tea was served in an adjoining room, and the discussion was extremely animated and interesting.

One thing is quite evident, that nurses who have an opportunity of expressing an unbiased opinion on the Registration question are invariably in favour of it, by what Sir James Crichton Browne would describe as "an enormous majority."

Glasgow and West of Scotland Nurses' Co-operation.

At the end of last year we commented upon the proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the Glasgow Nurses' Co-operation, when a new Constitution, prepared by the Executive Committee, was presented for adoption without being read to the meeting; nor had the nurses, the persons most concerned, previously received a copy of the Constitution. Eventually, on an amendment carried against the motion of the Executive (supported, it is stated, by the votes of the paid officials), the proposal to adopt the Constitution was sent back for further consideration.

At the time, it was stated by a correspondent in the *Glasgow Herald* that, as a result of this action, "the nurses have been called upon by an eminent doctor, who was most anxious for the change, to sign an apology, to be forwarded to him, expressing regret for having by their vote dared to oppose his wishes, otherwise the eminent one would at once sever his connection with the Co-operation."

Bearing this in mind, the information which now reaches us that the nurses who voted at the Annual Meeting for delay have since apologised to the Executive for doing so is significant. Was the apology voluntary, or, as stated in a contemporary, compulsory? As the nurse-members acted in a constitutional manner in refusing to confirm a Constitution of which they were ignorant, no apology was necessary or justifiable.

The following letter has now been circulated to the nurses of the Co-operation:—

DEAR NURSE,—As you may be aware, the Executive Committee have had under consideration for some time the question of enlarging and improving the Constitution under which the work of the Co-operation is carried on. After the matter had been very carefully gone into, the new Constitution, as drawn up by the Honorary Solicitor, and unanimously approved of by the Committee, was submitted for confirmation at the Annual Meeting held on November 18th last. At that meeting, however, it was represented that the nurses had not obtained copies of the proposed Constitution, and it was agreed [on an amendment carried through in opposition to the Executive.—Ed.] that confirmation should be delayed in order that copies might be circulated among the nurses. A copy is now being sent to each of the nurses along with this circular.

A meeting was held recently, at which there were present four representative nurses, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, the Honorary Solicitor [who drew up the draft Constitution.—Ed.], and the Secretary. The Hon. Solicitor, Mr. William Brodie, went over the proposed Constitution very carefully in detail, and explained the various points, showing that there was practically no change affecting the position of the nurses in the new Constitution as compared with the old one. The Constitution is simply being put on a

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