

## The Society for the State Registration of Nurses.

The quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Friday, the 6th inst., at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, and, in the absence of the President, the senior Vice-President, Miss Isla Stewart, took the chair.

The minutes having been read and confirmed, and letters of regret for non-attendance read, the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, presented the following report :—

### REPORT OF HON. SECRETARY.

I beg to report that since the last meeting 117 applications for membership have been received.

I have had the pleasure of taking part in meetings which have been held to discuss the question of State Registration of Trained Nurses at the Western Infirmary and the Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow, the City Hospital, Edinburgh, the Women's Institute and St. Andrew's House Nurses' Club, London, the Chelsea Infirmary, the Fulham Infirmary, the Brook Fever Hospital, the Fountain Fever Hospital, and by the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. All these meetings have been well attended, and most sympathetic and intelligent interest evinced by the medical officers, Matrons, nurses, and members of the public who composed them, and who by large majorities have expressed their approval of the principle of improving the professional education and status of nurses by means of State Registration. Delightful hospitality was extended to the speakers by the various ladies who convened the meetings.

Future arrangements include meetings to take place at Wigan, Bath, Birmingham, and at the Pioneer Club, London, at all of which I have been invited to speak.

Miss Macintyre, Matron of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, a local Hon. Secretary, is making the arrangements for the meeting to be held at that institution on February 11th inst., and, as it is a good centre for Lancashire, it will no doubt be well attended and help to arouse interest in the question of State Registration.

Miss Polden, Matron of the Royal United Hospital, Bath, in conjunction with Mrs. Groves, of Bristol, both Hon. Secretaries, have invited me to take part in a meeting to be held in Bath on March 19th.

The Debates Committee of the Pioneer Club have kindly arranged that on March 26th I may open a discussion, "That it is desirable that Trained Nurses should be Registered by the State."

The Matrons in the Midlands propose to arrange a meeting in Birmingham on April 29th, at which the President, Miss Louisa Stevenson, has consented to be present and speak. Miss Annie Barling, local Hon. Secretary, Matron of the Kidderminster Infirmary, is arousing local interest and co-operation in the meeting, which, I feel sure, will result in much increased support, from all concerned, in the work which we have so greatly at heart.

The question of the payment of a co-operative fee by nursing staffs of hospitals, where numbers of nurses are prepared to become members of this Society, and thus support the movement for State Registration, has

been brought to my notice by several Matrons, who plead, justly, that nurses' salaries are very limited and their necessary expenses great. I would suggest a reduction of the annual subscription. As much of our work is educative, and must therefore be of an honorary character, and as we have office room free, I find that after paying initial expenses we have a substantial balance at the bank. I would therefore suggest that the question of reducing the annual subscription to 1s. or of accepting a 5s. life subscription be considered to-day, and, if approved, that a resolution, recommending the alteration, be placed on the agenda for the annual meeting.

The finances are in a satisfactory condition. Mr. Laurence Pilkington has sent a donation of £1 1s., Miss Rosina Graham £1, and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson 10s. We have a balance of £30.

The Chairman then invited discussion on the Report; the Hon. Secretary read letters from the President, approving of the suggested alteration in subscriptions, so long as some arrangement was made to keep the members in touch with the Society, and suggesting that this might be done by their communicating their address annually to the Secretary. The majority of the local Hon. Secretaries sent letters strongly approving of the 1s. subscription, owing to the innumerable calls which nurses have upon their slender incomes.

Finally, it was unanimously agreed that the following resolution be placed on the agenda of the annual meeting, as a recommendation from the Executive Committee :— "That the annual subscription to the Society be in future one shilling per annum, or that a subscription of five shillings shall constitute life membership, so long as the Society exists for its present purpose."

It was further decided to recommend that members who have joined under the half-crown fee may either continue membership by paying one shilling annually or that they shall become life members upon paying a second half-crown.

### VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Upon the nomination of the President, and having signified her acceptance of office, the Countess of Aberdeen was unanimously elected a Vice-President of the Society.

### ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

The applications for membership were then considered, and the following ladies elected :—

No.	Name.	Where Trained.
515	Minty, Miss E. W.	cert. Western Infirmary, Glasgow.
516	Cox-Davies, Miss R. A.	cert. St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Matron New Hospital for Women.
517	Whitehall, Miss H. M.	cert. The Infirmary, Stockport.
518	Alloway, Mrs.	trained St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)