

was now generally accepted in our Colonies, where it was actually in force in Cape Colony and in New Zealand. She read extracts from a letter just received from Mrs. Neill, Deputy Registrar of Nurses and Assistant Inspector of Hospitals in New Zealand, proving the immense benefit already resulting from the enforcement of the Act. The Australian Commonwealth and Canada were also fully alive to the necessity for State Registration, and were going steadily forward to gain that result for their nurses. In the United States there were Bills before the Legislatures of five States petitioning for legal status, and in a few months it was to be hoped we should be able to congratulate our American colleagues upon the accomplishment of this great reform.

Mrs. Fenwick strongly deprecated the nurses of the Mother Country lagging in the rear, when they were the first to realise the benefit of legal status, and she hoped that each nurse present, by joining the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, would do her best to place English nurses in the van of progress.

Mrs. Groves, local Hon. Secretary for Gloucestershire, then proposed the following resolution:—

"That this meeting desires to see a system of State Registration for Trained Nurses, based on a uniform standard of education, legalised in this country."

She continued:

"May I say a few words to you about the uniform standard of education?"

"May I venture to say that we Trained Nurses sometimes fall into slight errors?"

"May I speak of two? No. 1 is 'Our outlook is too narrow.' No. 2. 'We are selfish.' Do not mistake me: a true nurse is never selfish in her actions. I am afraid she is sometimes in her thoughts."

"In speaking with nurses about the need for State Registration I am often met with: 'I do not approve of it at all. I think the certificate of a nurse's Training-School ought to be sufficient'; or, '*It is nothing to do with me.* I have a certificate.' In the first place, let us try to widen our outlook, and see if we cannot help our sisters. Those of us who have a three years' certificate from a good, well-known training-school do not seem to trouble ourselves to inquire about others."

"Now, a uniform system of education, and a central authority to manage examinations, would greatly raise the tone of special hospitals, provincial training-schools, small and great, nursing homes, and the like."

"Many women taking up nursing are unable, some are unwilling, to leave their home to go to distant training-schools. They go into an inferior training-school, and very often get a very poor chance indeed."

"Some work merely under an untrained Matron, some never hear a lecture."

"Some have lectures and go up for examination which everybody always passes. I think most Matrons will agree with me that an examination list that never shows any failures is not healthy."

"It is useless to say, 'Nurses need not go into inferior training-schools.' The smaller places must be nursed."

"Nurses who cannot afford to waste time in waiting to get into a good training-school, or who can not afford premiums (or sometimes even the cost of uniform and travelling expenses), must find a place for their labour. Let it be remembered, also, that would-be nurses are very frequently totally unaware that one place is better than another in which to learn their work."

"Do not let us, then, be selfish in thinking about this matter. Let us think not 'How will this affect me?' but rather, 'How will it affect those who are coming after me?' 'Can I do anything towards turning out better-trained, better-educated, better-equipped nurses, to be an honour and a joy to the profession to which I belong?'"

"I think we can do all this by going solid for State Registration, and I have therefore great pleasure in asking you to pass this resolution:—'That this meeting desires to see a system of State Registration for Trained Nurses, based on a uniform standard of education, legalised in this country.'"

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. E. Handley, who said he was strongly in favour of State Registration of Nurses, and he was sure it must commend itself to all who had at heart the welfare of the nursing profession and who wished to see the benefits which the profession extended to the public as much increased as possible.

Having presided over the destinies of the institution in which they were met, he thought very highly of the profession as a profession for women, and had a strong impression that something ought to be done to protect the interests of conscientious, well-qualified nurses. He thought Registration would be helpful to the medical profession and a great protection to the public.

The resolution was carried unanimously, as also was a vote of thanks to Mrs. Fenwick, proposed in the kindest terms by the Secretary, Mr. J. M. Sheppard.

At the termination of the meeting the Matron and nurses welcomed visitors in the Nurses' Sitting-room, a spacious and beautiful room, where a "real lovely" tea was prepared; as usual, many questions were asked informally, the Sisters and nurses and various friends expressing approval of the movement, many being keenly interested in details of organisation or anxious to help the "good cause."

The printed permits for examinations, and the Registration Certificate as used under the new Act in New Zealand, which were on view, aroused great interest.

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