

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

The First Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses took place on Friday, May 8th, at 20, Hanover Square, London, W., at 12 noon. The President, Miss Louisa Stevenson, who had travelled from Edinburgh to preside on this occasion, was very cordially received, and on taking the chair was presented by Miss Isla Stewart, Senior Vice-President of the Society, and on its behalf, with a bouquet of crimson roses tied up with soft green ribbons.

The President then called upon Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Hon. Secretary, to read the minutes of the Inaugural Meeting. These having been confirmed, Miss Stevenson said that living so far from London she was not able to do as much as she wished for the Society whose behalf those present had so much at heart, but nothing would give her greater pleasure at any time than to advance its interests by all possible means.

Mrs. Fenwick then reported that letters of regret at inability to attend had been received from a large number of Matrons and nurses, whose names she enumerated.

The President thought it very encouraging that so many Matrons and nurses should prove their interest in the work of the Society by writing to express their regret at being unable to be present. She then called upon Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to present the annual report and financial statement.

ANNUAL REPORT.

For the Year ending April 30th, 1903.

FORMATION OF THE SOCIETY.

In presenting the first Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, it is necessary briefly to describe the circumstances which led to its formation. Since its foundation in 1894, the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland had maintained a sub-committee to deal with this question of primary importance to all nurses. At the Annual Meeting of this Council on January 30th, 1902, it was agreed, on the proposition of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, that the time had come when definite organisation for legislative purposes should be undertaken, and that there would be less confusion in the minds of those willing to support a movement for Registration if they could join a Society having this sole aim. This was endorsed by the President of the Society, Miss Isla Stewart, and supported by Miss Huxley (Dublin), Miss Poole (Blackburn), and Miss Marquardt (Camberwell). The principle of the formation of the Society was accepted and applications for membership of

such a Society invited. At the Council Meeting which took place at Morley Hall, George Street, Hanover Square, on Friday, May 30th, 1902, the Registration Sub-Committee presented a report of the work accomplished up to that time, and subsequently the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was formed, with Miss Louisa Stevenson, of Edinburgh, as President, Miss Isla Stewart senior Vice-President, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and with 461 trained nurses—many of them holding influential positions—as members.

On the afternoon of the same day a public meeting was held, at which the necessity for Registration was explained and discussed.

MEMBERSHIP.

Since the inaugural meeting last May, 275 applications for membership of the Society have been accepted by the Executive Committee, thus making a total of 736 within twelve months. This is an encouraging result, and stimulates us to hope for still better things, and for the adhesion of every well-trained nurse in the United Kingdom to the principles of the Society. It is noteworthy that the list of members includes the names of nurses trained in nearly every important hospital and in many Poor Law infirmaries, proving that the demand for Registration is confined to no section of the nursing community, but is a general one on the part of certificated nurses who are free to join such a society.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The following ladies and gentlemen have consented to act as Vice-Presidents of the Society:—

The Countess of Aberdeen, President Women's Liberal Federation, &c.

Dr. William Berry, J.P., Chairman Board of Management Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Miss M. F. Bostock, Lady Superintendent Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson.

Miss Emma Cons, Founder of Royal Victoria Temperance Music Hall and Men and Women's College.

Mrs. Mackenzie Davidson, National Council of Women.

Miss M. Deane, Matron East Suffolk Hospital, Ipswich.

Miss Catherine Drew, Vice-President of the Institute of Journalists.

Lady Orr-Ewing.

Mrs. Garrett Fawcett, LL.D.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President International Council of Nurses.

Miss E. S. Haldane, Member Board of Management, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

The Rev. E. Handley President Royal United Hospital, Bath

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