

Miss Villiers and Dr. Matthews, Fountain Hospital, Footing.

Miss Macintyre and Dr. William Berry (Chairman), Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Miss Polden, Rev. Edward Handley (Chairman), and Mr. J. M. Sheppard (Secretary), Royal United Hospital, Bath.

Miss Edith Debenham, St. Andrew's House, Mortimer Street, W.

Mrs. Dickinson Berry, M.D.

Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mrs. Pollard, Debates Committee, Women's Institute.

Mrs. Collier and Miss Cooke, Debates Committee, Pioneer Club.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee has dealt with the work of the Society throughout the year, and, from the experience acquired, recommends to the Annual Meeting an alteration as to the subscription, namely, that the annual subscription shall in future be 1s. per annum, or that 5s. shall constitute Life Membership so long as the Society exists for its present purpose, and arising out of this that the members who have paid 5s. be elected Life Members.

It also suggests for consideration in full Conference:—

That the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses by Act of Parliament is a matter of urgent national importance, and that it is desirable to introduce a Bill with this object into the House of Commons.

That the Executive Committee be authorised to instruct Counsel to draft a Bill providing for the State Registration of Trained Nurses for discussion, and that it be submitted to Hospital Committees, Medical and Nursing Bodies, and Political Societies, inviting their consideration of its clauses; and, lastly,

That a Parliamentary Bills Committee be appointed upon the nomination of the Executive Committee to deal with the matter.

In conclusion, it is well to recapitulate the principal events in the Registration movement in this and other countries during the last fifteen years:—

- 1887. The British Nurses' Association founded with the object of instituting a system of Registration for nurses analogous to that enforced by law in the case of the medical profession.
- 1891. The first Register of Trained Nurses was issued by the above Association.
- 1891. Registration of Trained Nurses enforced in Cape Colony under the Medical and Pharmacy Act, Cape of Good Hope, promulgated August 21st, 1891.
- 1894. Foundation of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the second object of this Society being "To bring about a uniform system of education, examination, certification, and State Registration for Nurses in British Hospitals."

- 1895. The British Medical Association, at its Annual Meeting held in London in July, 1895, on the motion of Dr. Bedford Fenwick, unanimously resolved—

"That in the opinion of this meeting it is expedient that an Act of Parliament should, as soon as possible, be passed providing for the registration of medical, surgical, and obstetric nurses, and the Council of this Association are therefore requested to consider the matter and to take such measures as may seem to them advisable to obtain such legislation."

- 1896. Conference convened between the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association and representatives of bodies connected with the organisation and welfare of nurses to consider this resolution prior to taking action. At this Conference the delegate of the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association and its Medical Honorary Secretary voted for a resolution—"That a legal system of Registration of Nurses is inexpedient in principle, and injurious to the best interests of nurses and of doubtful public benefit."

This resolution against the principle of Registration was carried by *six* votes against *five*, that is to say, by the vote of the representative of the Royal British Nurses' Association. And this vote was subsequently upheld by the majority of the Executive Committee of that Association, although strongly protested against by the minority.

- 1899. The Register of Trained Nurses published by the R.B.N.A. abolished, and a Roll of Members substituted.
- 1899. Registration of Trained Nurses enforced by Act of Parliament in Natal.
- 1899. Foundation of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, one object being "To establish a system of Registration for Trained Nurses."
- 1901. At the International Congress of Nurses held at Buffalo, U.S.A., the following resolution in favour of State Registration was moved from the Chair by the President of the Congress, Miss Isabel McIsaac, seconded by Miss Isla Stewart (Great Britain), supported by Miss Snively (Canada), Miss McGahey (Australia), Mrs. Hampton Robb (United States), and accorded a rising vote:—
 - "Whereas, The nursing of the sick is a matter closely affecting all classes of the community in every land;
 - "Whereas, To be efficient workers, nurses should be carefully educated in the important duties which are now allotted to them;

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