

When it was proposed she had said, in expressing her disapproval of the scheme, that she was not very much concerned, for the Local Government Board would never sanction it. They had done so, however, and it was a farce to call the women who worked for a year in these workhouse wards—not in those of the Holborn Union Infirmary—qualified nurses.

Mrs. Despard (Lambeth) showed that the real difficulty in relation to workhouse nursing arose from putting an elaborately-trained person under one who was untrained in her own branch of work.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the last speaker, expressed her admiration for the speeches to which she had listened from Dr. Savill and Miss Gibson. She pointed out, however, that it was not the Local Government Board which was primarily responsible for the qualified nurse, whom all present agreed in condemning. The reason for her creation lay deeper down. It was to the training-schools that we must look for the making and moulding of standards, and so far they had not co-operated to state what they considered was comprised in an efficient nursing education. She, and others, had been working for some generally-accepted standard for the last fifteen years. She thought more good feeling and less jealousy was needed between the various training-schools. At present we need go no further than the twelve metropolitan hospitals with medical schools attached to find certificates of training awarded to nurses after periods varying from one to four years. Was it strange under these circumstances that the Local Government Board had erred? It was hoped before long to introduce a Bill into the House of Commons for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Such a Bill, if passed, would entail the formation of a Central Nursing Council and the definition of a minimum curriculum. She hoped very much that when this Bill was introduced it would have the support of all who had at heart the welfare of the sick, for whose benefit nurses existed, and who desired to place nursing on a professional basis with a defined legal status.

The following resolution was carried:—

“That this meeting disagrees with the proposal of the Departmental Committee on Nursing to create minor training-schools in small workhouses, and to recommend that a probationer who has undergone at least one year's training in such schools should be considered and called a qualified nurse. This meeting believes that the adoption of the recommendation would have a most detrimental effect on the position and character of nursing as a profession, and an equally injurious influence on the Poor Law service and public interests. We would ask the President of the Local Government Board to receive a deputation on the subject.”

The usual votes of thanks brought the meeting to a close.

M. B.

## Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League.

### JOURNAL.

We welcome with great pleasure the latest addition to the League journals, that of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, which is to be issued annually. Its cover, in a soft shade of grey-blue, stitched with red silk, bears the name of the League, and, underneath, the word “Journal.” The date of issue, October, 1903, is in the right-hand corner at the bottom. A peep into its pages shows us that both paper and printing are exceptionally excellent, so that reading and handling the journal are alike a pleasure.

### INTRODUCTION.

The introduction by the President of the League, Miss G. A. Rogers, will be received with interest not only by the members of the League, but by the nursing world at large, throughout which Miss Rogers is widely known and respected, both personally and on account of the high reputation the nurse-training school at the Leicester Infirmary has attained under her able superintendence.

The introduction is as follows:—

I cannot fully express the pleasure it has been to me to shake hands (so to speak) with so many of my former nurses, and to feel assured that their interest in their old hospital has not faded away. If space would allow, I should like to quote from some of the many letters I have received, but I must content myself with saying that the League has succeeded far beyond my expectations. To get a list of 100 members in four months is sufficient proof that its formation was a popular movement. I need not speak of the objects of the League, for they are stated in the Constitution. It will be self-supporting and self-governing. I hope all members will make it so by using their right to vote, and will not contentedly (dare I say lazily?) leave all government in the hands of the Council.

The motto chosen by the members was “Unity and Honour.” Women seem slow to recognise the value of co-operation. So long as they individually prosper they are apt, or many are, to be indifferent to the wider interests of their profession. We hope, then, by means of the League to arouse amongst its members a keener interest in the nursing questions of the day questions to which an answer of some sort will have to be given in the near future, and to which satisfactory answers can hardly be given, until there is greater unity of purpose in our ranks. It is said of hospitals that they cannot see beyond their own four walls. Do not let us build four walls round our League, but rather let it widen out our interests and enlarge our sympathies. Nursing is no longer a work which is only taken up by educated women from motives of philanthropy, but is a recognised profession by means of which thousands of women earn their living—perhaps some of us think the commercial element is in danger of being a little over-developed—and is an honourable profession, but few will venture to say that it is an *organised* profession. It has no recognised standards of efficiency, no “hall mark” of

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