

development. It should have room to expand on the best lines. She had pleasure in accepting Mrs. Fenwick's amendment, and redrafted her resolution thus:—

"The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses are willing to co-operate with Nurses' Leagues and Associations of Nurses formed and governed by themselves."

Mrs. Walter Spencer proposed that the League should thank Miss Dock for her letter, but intimate that it did not consider that the time had yet come for Federation. This proposition was seconded by Sister Mark, but on being put to the meeting was lost. Miss Stewart's resolution, as amended, was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

Miss Stewart then resumed the chair, and the next business on the Agenda was considered, viz:—

#### THE REPRESENTATION OF THE LEAGUE ON THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION.

Miss Helen Todd rose to propose that the League should send a representative to the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. The subject was one in which all nurses were very deeply concerned, and she thought all were agreed that Registration was desirable. The Bart's League included in its membership many who were not in active connection with the hospital, holding various posts of responsibility. It was thus representative of educated nursing opinion throughout the country, and could express an independence of thought which was almost unique. She thought the League should give its endorsement to the propriety of the aims of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

This was seconded by Miss F. M. Waind.

In the discussion which followed, Miss Stewart, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Rodgers, Miss Musson, Miss Armitage, and Miss Kingsford took part. Miss Musson said that perhaps the League had been somewhat inert in the matter so far because it had the comfortable feeling that its President had a seat on the Executive Committee, and that its interests, therefore, were safe in her hands, but this did not absolve the League from taking up its corporate responsibilities.

Miss Armitage, in supporting this view, said that she had attended several meetings in support of the Registration movement, and had been much impressed by the arguments advanced. She very much desired to hear what was to be said on the other side, for she supposed there was another side, but so far she had not been able to discover it.

Miss Kingsford thought that the fact of the existence of the League, as such, entailed upon it responsibilities to advance the interests of the profession at large. We could not, even if we would, get away from these responsibilities.

The resolution was then carried, and, on the

motion of Mrs. Hayward, seconded by Miss Cartwright, it was agreed to refer the appointment of the representative to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

#### A REPRESENTATIVE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WOMEN.

The next business was to decide whether the League would send a representative to the Women's International Congress in Berlin.

Mrs. Hayward said that in support of the proposition various reasons presented themselves, which she detailed. The Bart's League was the pioneer League in this country, and it behoved it to show enterprise and public spirit; it was most profitable to hear at first hand a report of such Conferences. To take part in them was a preventive of narrowness and absorption; it had a stimulating effect, and prevented the stagnation of success.

Further, in *League News* we had a medium of communication with members in all parts of the world. If we sent a representative to the Congress, her report of the proceedings would subsequently appear in its pages, and our distant members would, she felt sure, be proud thus to learn that Bart's nurses were to the fore once again. The President and Miss Waind had attended the last International Congress of Nurses at Buffalo, and she begged to move that some member be sent to Berlin. The League should be careful to ensure that the lucky person appointed had eyes to see, ears to hear, and a pen which could write.

Miss Waind, in seconding the motion, said she had been very much struck, when in America, by the zeal shown by American Associations in appointing delegates to represent them at the Nursing Congress. She hoped the League would appoint the representative, as she would not like to feel that it was not in the van of progress. As a League we had a duty to perform, and must look after the interests of our profession.

The resolution was carried, and Mrs. Spencer then proposed that Miss Armitage should be the member sent. The suggestion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rudolph Smith, was enthusiastically received and carried, for during her prolonged connection with the hospital Miss Armitage has gained widespread respect and confidence, and the League could not have made a better choice.

Miss Armitage modestly said she thought the League might find a better qualified representative, but the members thought not.

The members then adjourned to the Great Hall, and the excellent tea was much appreciated after all the business which had been despatched.

It is most interesting, in connection with these meetings, to watch the development of latent talent, as, for instance, the thoroughly businesslike manner in which Sister Surgery took the chair, while the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)