

then it seems that, after all, the nursing service *does* come down to a matter of dollars and cents, and as it is shown that nurses, regarded practically as slaves, are hired out to every kind of institution for fourteen to sixteen hours' hard work a day, for a meagre price of which in turn they receive only a bare pittance, it is certainly time for the nurses of Germany to revolt. She compares the religious motherhouses with an absolute monarchy, the "free" nurses with an attempted republic, and the Red Cross training-schools with a constitutional monarchy.

Her account of the new regulations which she has had introduced into the management of the Bavarian motherhouse shows that she is progressive. First, as to recreation and freedom: "The Sisters remain in close relation with their own families—are not required to give up family life. They do not live communistically—if they have private means they retain and enjoy them; they can furnish their rooms individually, and, if study is not neglected, and if they have proved themselves reliable, their visits, letters, and reading matter are not supervised; they may attend concerts, theatres, exhibitions, lectures."

Further, in the future the nurses are to be represented on the Managing Board. "The 'Council of Nurses' (Schwesternrat) is composed of ten Sisters, one of whom shall be the Oberin (Matron). It has some influence in every detail of training-school work, discipline, dismissals, pensions. In the annual meeting it presents suggestions, opinions, and observations in an orderly way. The members of this Council are elected every three years by all the Sisters of the Association in secret ballot.

"Once a year at least the Council meets the managers to discuss the affairs of the Association and to receive reports from the Oberin and head Sisters." Then, further, the advanced course for preparing able Sisters to take charge of hospitals and motherhouses is the work of Fräulein von Wallmenich.

The training-schools of Germany demand a deposit from their pupils equal to the cost of their tuition. If the pupil leaves arbitrarily before her time of service has expired, this is forfeited. This seems only fair, for in no other profession do pupils get their training free, as in nursing. The time of training is fixed at one year, after which they promise to give two years of service. This service must also benefit themselves, as a one-year training is very insufficient.

The latter part of Fräulein von Wallmenich's paper, in which she describes the whole-souled devotion with which the Matron must give herself to her work and to her nurses, is the best refutation of the unfair criticisms which are often launched against training-school superintendents by unthinking nurses. The whole paper throws much light upon the internal affairs of German schools of nursing.

## Irish Nurses' Association.

A crowded and most enthusiastic meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association was held at the Nurses' Home and Bureau, 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, on Tuesday, the 26th ult. Amongst those present were:—

Miss Mayne, Limerick; Miss Walsh, Cork; Mrs. Timmins and Miss Blood, Navan; Miss Doorly, Loughlinstown; Miss Keogh, Enniskerry; Miss Hardy, Borrisokane.

Letters sympathising with the movement for the State Registration of Trained Nurses were received from—

Miss M'Gowan, Sligo; Miss Neville, Lisburn; Miss Ryan, Tuam; Miss Booth, Kells; Miss Hayes, Omagh; Miss M'Donnell, Longford; Miss Nixon, Enniskillen; Miss Henry, Carrickmacross; Miss Lenihan, Cork; Sister Mary Ita, Newcastle West; Miss Bayley, Cashel; Miss M'Comiskey, Downpatrick; Miss Macness, Dundalk; Miss Little, Belfast; Miss Harkin, Downpatrick; Miss Barnes, Ennis; Miss Gordon, Larne.

The Draft Bill promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and the Synopsis of the Bill promoted by the Royal British Nurses' Association, were read by the Secretary, Miss Huxley, President, who had just returned from a meeting held in London to consider the amended Bill, brought a message from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to Irish nurses urging them to combine and take an interest in their own affairs, which are now at a critical point. The subject of State Registration of Nurses would soon be before Parliament, and it was every nurse's duty to take a proper share in promoting and administering the laws which concern them. Miss Huxley pointed out that provision is made in the Draft Bill for one medical practitioner, one Matron, and two nurses to be elected by Irish votes to represent their interest on the General Nursing Council. Provision is also made to protect the interest of nurses already trained and in *bona-fide* practice.

Miss Kelly strongly advocated the necessity of nurses studying the Bills for themselves, and understanding how they would affect their interests.

Miss Egan spoke of the injury done to Irish midwifery schools owing to the lack of unity and organisation amongst the midwives in Ireland.

After further discussion, it was proposed by Miss M'Donnell, seconded by Mrs. Kildare Treacy, of Dublin, and resolved, that a working committee be formed to deal with the business in connection with the Bills for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

It was proposed by Miss Hewson, Cork, seconded by Miss Mayne, Limerick, and resolved, that sub-committees be formed throughout the country to interest the public, doctors, and nurses in the subject of State Registration of Trained Nurses.

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