

a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the whole Nursing Question.

Miss Sandford, late Matron of the City Fever Hospital, Edinburgh, said that she felt somewhat ashamed of Scotland, which had been backward in taking up the Registration movement, but now she was glad to say an influential committee has been formed, which intended to work to advance the cause. During the last two months she had had under her notice an instance of the necessity for Registration in the case of a nurse who satisfactorily passed through her training at the City Hospital, Edinburgh, and was awarded its certificate. Six weeks ago the wife of an Edinburgh advocate came to her, begging that this certificate might be withdrawn, as the nurse had been guilty of theft. She was obliged to own that it was impossible to take away the certificate. She thought that fact a plea for Registration. She had much pleasure in supporting the resolution. They were arranging a general meeting of nurses in Edinburgh, which she hoped would further the cause, and many Scotch nurses were, she knew, going to join the Society.

Mrs. Homan (late L.S.B.), in supporting the resolution, said the organisation of the nursing profession was of serious importance to the public, and ought to take place quickly. Teachers had left them behind long ago, but the efficiency of the nurse was of even more importance than that of the teacher, inasmuch as the issues of life and death might be affected by an incompetent nurse.

The public was not sufficiently educated up to what was necessary for its own welfare. In the present case it must be shown the serious importance of the question, then the difficulties would be swept away. We need not expect too much even from the appointment of a Select Committee, but at least it would help on the important work of educating the public. A large amount of evidence would be taken, and that this should be seriously good rested with those in touch with persons in a position to offer it.

The question of training was serious and important; some was excellent, some inefficient. Improved education meant, doubtless, increased expense, which might be met in part by the awarding of scholarships and grants in aid.

Miss E. S. Haldane said she heartily supported the resolution. She had recently been deeply interested in a report, which all present might not have seen, that of the Scottish Departmental Committee on Poor Law Medical Relief, which incorporated the suggestion that the Local Government Board should outline a syllabus of training and hold, half-yearly, central examinations, thus proposing to do for one department of nursing what should be done for the profession at large. She would say no more, but cordially supported the resolution.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Society then elected the following members to act as its representatives on the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses, recently formed at a Conference of Leagues and Nursing Societies specially summoned to consider the matter:—

Miss Richmond, Matron of the Women's Hospital, Birmingham; Miss E. M. Roberts, late Lady Superintendent Nurses' Co-operation; Miss E. C. Sandford, late Matron City Hospital, Edinburgh; Miss Jane Wade, General Superintendent, Scottish Branch, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute; Miss Huxley, President Irish Nurses' Association; and Miss A. M. MacDonnell, R.R.C.

The Chairman said she could not let the meeting conclude without expressing her appreciation of the enormous amount of work performed by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

Mrs. Gower, Local Hon. Secretary for Brighton, moved a vote of thanks to the President, Miss Louisa Stevenson, and the Hon. Officers, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Isla Stewart, for the invaluable work they had rendered. The members recognised that it was not from any interested motives that they so ably championed the nurses' cause, but that they were animated by the noble desire to be of public service and to see the nursing profession placed on a sound basis. Mrs. Gower also said that the sincere thanks of the meeting were due to Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, who had given much time and personal service to the advancement of the Registration movement; to Dr. Farquharson, who had introduced the Bill into the House of Commons; and to those Members who had backed it.

The vote of thanks was accorded with acclamation, and the members then adjourned to the office, 431, Oxford Street, where, by the kindness of the President, tea had been provided. Much admiration was expressed for the beautiful home of the Society, which is in a most convenient and central situation.

Central Midwives' Board.

At a meeting of the Central Midwives' Board, held at the Board Room, 6, Suffolk Street, S.W., on April 28th, and adjourned to May 11th, the following business was transacted:—

Present on April 28th.—Dr. Champneys, Mr. J. Ward Cousins, Dr. Cullingworth, Mr. J. H. Johnstone, M.P., Miss Paget, Dr. Sinclair, Miss Wilson, Mr. E. Parker Young.

Present on May 11th.—Dr. Champneys, Miss Paget, Dr. Sinclair, Miss Wilson, Mr. E. Parker Young.

1. Dr. Champneys was re-elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

2. Mr. J. H. Johnstone, M.P., was re-elected Hon. Treasurer for the same period.

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