

3. Letters were read from the Secretary of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, the General Secretary of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, the Master of the Coombe Hospital, Dublin, and Dr. Byers, Physician to the Incorporated Belfast Maternity Hospital, asking the Board to reconsider its decision as to an alteration of its rules, so as to allow pupil-midwives trained in the Chartered Maternity Hospitals of Ireland to be placed on the same footing as candidates for the examination of the Board producing the certificates prescribed by Forms III. and IV. in the Schedule to the Rules of the Board.

Resolved, That it is desirable to reconsider the rules, so far as regards the application contained in the letters now read.

It was moved and seconded :—

That in lieu of the certificates of personal attendance upon twenty cases the Board may, if they think fit, accept the certificates of the Master or senior medical officer of a hospital or institution where midwives are trained that the candidate has attended the course of training prescribed for pupil-midwives for the period, and in accordance with the regulations in force in such hospital or institution.

All applications for the recognition of such certificates must be made by the Master or senior medical officer of the hospital or institution applying, and must be accompanied by a statement of the regulations for the time being in force, and of any special circumstances which prevent candidates trained in such hospitals or institutions from producing the ordinary certificates required by the Board.

On a division there voted :—For the motion, 3 ; against the motion, 5. The motion was accordingly lost. The further consideration of the matter was then adjourned to May 26th.

4. After consideration of applications for certificates the names of 1,037 women were passed under Section 2 of the Act, and ordered for entry on the Roll.

The following table shows the separate numbers of the various qualifications at present appearing on the Roll :—

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, 1 ; Obstetrical Society of London, 1,213 ; Rotunda Hospital, 55 ; Coombe Hospital, 23 ; Queen Charlotte's Hospital, 73 ; Liverpool Lying-in Hospital, 20 ; British Lying in Hospital, 3 ; Glasgow Maternity Hospital, 39 ; St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, 78 ; Manchester Maternity Hospital, 1 ; City of London Lying-in Hospital, 7 ; Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh, 6 ; Salvation Army Maternity Hospital, 4 ; National Maternity Hospital, Dublin, 1 ; women in *bond-fide* practice July, 1901, 2,928 ; total enrolled, 4,452.

5. Resolved, That it is desirable to appoint an inspector to visit and report on institutions applying for recognition of certificate or approval as

training-schools, in cases where it so appears advisable to the Board.

6. The consideration of the scheme of examinations to be instituted by the Board was further proceeded with, and adjourned.

The Countess of Dudley's Scheme for the Supply of District Nurses.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

The first Annual Report in connection with Lady Dudley's scheme for the establishment of district nurses in the poorest parts of Ireland has just been issued, and is a most interesting record of the work. From it we learn that all nurses established under the scheme are Queen Victoria's Jubilee Nurses fully trained, medically and surgically, and have also taken the district training provided by Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute. Those sent to the agricultural districts are also certificated midwives.

The Catholic nurses are trained at St. Lawrence's, and the Protestant at St. Patrick's Training Homes, Dublin, both affiliated to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.

The nurses are visited and inspected at regular intervals by Miss Lamont, Superintendent of the Dublin branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.

They are also visited as often as possible by different members of the Committee and by W. J. D. Walker, Esq., Inspector of the Congested Districts Board, in particular.

The cost of keeping a nurse in the more remote agricultural districts, where, on account of the impossibility of obtaining lodgings, it is necessary to give her a furnished cottage, is from £108 to £112 per annum. This includes rent and taxes, salary, uniform allowance, board wages, and an allowance for the keep of a servant, and fire and lighting. The initial expenses of furnishing and equipping the nurse with a bicycle and the necessary medical stores amount to £55. In districts where it is possible to obtain furnished lodgings the expenses are considerably smaller, varying from £90 to £100 per annum.

The above scale of expenses may at first sight appear high, but, after most careful consideration, the Committee find that it is not possible to obtain properly qualified nurses, and allow them such facilities as will enable them to give the widest possible effect to their ministrations, at a lower cost. In these remote districts, where it is only possible to obtain medical assistance after a delay of many hours, the nurse is constantly placed in positions of the utmost responsibility, and may have to deal unaided with cases requiring the highest skill and knowledge. In seeking to maintain a high standard both as regards character and qualifications among their nurses, the Committee have in view not only the relief of the immediate necessities of the people in these backward districts, but their education in the laws of health and sanitation, and the general improvement of the conditions under which they live.

The Committee say, further, that to those who are familiar with the conditions of life among the inhabitants of the many remote and poverty-stricken agricultural districts of Ireland the extension of a system of trained nurses is regarded as of inestimable value in more than one respect. First as a mitigation of the

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