

The Irish Nurses' Association.

A few weeks ago, in preparing an interim Report for the International Council of Nurses, in referring to Scotland and Ireland truth compelled us to insert the following paragraph:—

In Scotland and Ireland.—Co-operation amongst nurses is practically non-existent in Scotland and Ireland. This is the more disappointing as there are many able women holding positions of authority in nursing circles in both countries whose efforts would, I feel sure, be crowned with success if they would take the initiative in either forming Councils of Matrons or Leagues of Nurses in connection with the many excellent training-schools which now exist in both countries.

In preparing a Report for the Quinquennial Session to be held in Berlin in June, it would appear that, so far as Ireland is concerned, we shall have the pleasure of announcing the organisation of the Irish Nurses' Association.

On Saturday, the 9th inst., by the kind permission of Miss Margaret MacDonnell, a large and representative adjourned meeting of the Dublin Nurses' Club met at her house, 86, Lower Leeson Street. The chair was taken by the President, Miss Huxley, at 7 p.m. Among the nurses present were: Mrs. Blackmore, the Misses Barber, Campbell, Carr, Chadwick, Clarke, Colvin, Conway, Condon, Corrothers, Dowd, Farrell, Fitzpatrick, French, Hampson, Haire, Haughton, Hosford, Huxley, Haynes, Jardin, Jones, Johnson, Kelly, Love, M. MacDonnell, M. E. MacDonnell, M'Elroy, M'Manus, Maconochie, M'Kendry, Manning, Naile, O'Shaughnessy, Porter, Quin, Ramsden, Reeves, Roberts, Kildare Treacy (Mrs.), Thomas, Ward, West. Letters were read from the following members who were unable to attend, but promised hearty support:—The Misses Burns, Connolly, Dowling, Harvey (Mrs.), Hoadley, Joy, Laing, Powell, Shelley, Sneyd, Wall. After the minutes had been read and the financial statement submitted, Miss Kelly addressed the members on the subject of State Registration of Nurses. She explained the scope of the Bills proposed to be introduced into Parliament, and the necessity for Irish nurses to lose no time in appointing representatives to guard their interests, and keep them informed on the subject, as at present the Irish nurses are barely represented on either the Royal British Nurses' Association or the Society for the State Registration of Nurses. Miss Fitzpatrick introduced a discussion on some changes to be made in the rules, and it was proposed by Miss Kelly, seconded by Miss West, and resolved—"That the name of the club be changed to the 'Irish Nurses' Association.'"

In view of the importance of the question of State Registration of nurses, it was felt that by changing the name of the Society trained nurses all over Ireland would be more inclined to band

themselves together to consider professional questions of such vital importance, and it was also decided to make other alterations to extend the usefulness of the Society.

Miss Margaret MacDonnell's kind offers to place a fine room in her house at the disposal of the members and to give her services as secretary were both gladly accepted, and the meeting accorded her a hearty vote of thanks for her hospitality.

The first meeting of the newly-constituted Association will be one of great importance, invitations having been sent out to all the Matrons in Ireland, and to a large number of nurses, to attend a meeting in Dublin on Tuesday, the 26th inst., "To Discuss the Bills for State Registration of Trained Nurses." The President, Miss Huxley, intends to be present at the Special General Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, of which she is a member, to be held in London on the 23rd inst. (at which the Bill drafted by the Society will, after amendment, be finally adopted), so that she may thoroughly acquaint herself with the question from every point of view.

The American Nursing World.

THE FAITHFUL FEW.

Miss Isabel McIsaac, of Chicago, has an eloquent little plea for Alumnae officers in the *Illinois Alumnae Journal*. She writes:—

"A greater number of years than I care to recall as a member of our own Association and an observer of many others has confirmed a suspicion which originated in my mind a decade ago when an officer.

"We have a flourishing society with a large membership, a vital interest, good financial standing, and have had our vanity stimulated by much flattering speech and requests for advice from younger societies, until most of us plume our feathers and take credit to ourselves in the thought that it is something to be very proud of. All this is true, very true, but there are further truths which will bear some thought.

"First, we might remember that the object of the society is mutual help, professional, financial, and personal. At the very beginning of the organisation the first battle to fight was between a small faction which insisted upon the professional aids being given equal prominence with the financial, and the much larger faction which was either strongly in favour of only the financial aids or were too indifferent to give themselves the trouble of forming an opinion, and waited for the success of one side or the other to decide for them.

"Time surely seems to have decided in favour of the small number who fought strongly for what seemed to them the vital point of our existence as an association. The battle begun then has never ceased. Every year it rages, often unseen; waged on one side by the few workers who consent to sacrifice time, recreation, rest, and peace of mind and body that this vital spark may be kept alive, and these, with an equally small number of the faithful sympathisers, are arrayed against the number who after paying their dues feel that their duty is done except to supply an abundance of criticism, too often unjust and nearly

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