

It would be a good thing if hospitals kept their own registers, but this would not dispense with the need for Registration by the State. It was impossible to refer to the hospitals in emergencies, whereas the fact that a nurse's name was on the State Register would be a guarantee of a minimum qualification. Moreover, when the Matron had changed once or twice there would be no one who could speak with knowledge of her. She questioned also if the hospital would accept the responsibility and work.

In regard to the three years' standard, Miss Hughes advocated it, and pointed out that nursing was not a question of mental quickness, but of learning how to use the hands and eyes in relation to the care of the sick. Further, diseases ran a certain definite course, and could not be hurried up on account of the mental quickness of the nurse.

When the State Register was started it should be thrown open to the nursing world and a time of grace and consideration accorded. She believed this was the procedure in relation to the Medical Register. Those without full qualifications would die out in time. Registration would tend to raise the standard of education indirectly. She attached much importance to personal qualifications, and would make the hospitals responsible to the State for the character of their trainees, and furnish evidence of general fitness. She thought it a slur on the hospitals if it were assumed that they would give certificates to unsuitable nurses. If they did not discover this unsuitability in three years of close supervision they ought to do so.

She would not have a nurse removed from the Register because she was impatient or quarrelsome. Such cases should be cautioned by the sub-committee she had suggested.

In reply to the Chairman, she said the Central Board should certainly have power to deal with gross cases of immorality.

Asked by a member whether the opinions she had heard in the country were spontaneous, or expressed after arguments advanced by herself as a propagandist, she replied they were largely spontaneous.

Incompetency on the part of a nurse was not always her own fault, but might be due to defective training. If a certificated nurse were sent to nurse a case of typhoid, never having seen one during the course of her training—and she was personally aware of such a case—the nurse would be incompetent to care for that patient, not from carelessness, but because her training had been defective. If Registration were in force it was less likely that imperfectly trained nurses would be sent out.

After Dr. Bedford Fenwick's reply to Mr. Sydney Holland (reported in last week's issue), the Committee rose, and it was announced that no further evidence would be taken this Session.

THE REPORT.

The Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Expediency of Providing for the Registration of Nurses has now been issued. It mentions the dates and number of meetings held, but contains no record of the evidence taken. The Committee agreed to report the minutes of evidence taken before them to the House, with a recommendation that a Committee be appointed in the next Session of Parliament to continue the inquiry.

The Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held on Saturday, July 30th, at 431, Oxford Street. Miss Marquardt, Matron of Camberwell Infirmary, was in the chair. The Minutes having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, presented the following

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

It is with great pleasure I have to report that since the last meeting of this Committee the efforts of this Society have resulted in the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to consider the expediency of providing for the Registration of Nurses. On Friday, June 4th, on the motion of Sir A. Acland Hood, Government Whip, the Committee was appointed, the members subsequently nominated by the Prime Minister being Dr. Ambrose (N.), member for Mayo (West); Major Bagot (C.), member for Westmorland (Kendal); Sir Michael Foster, K.C.B. (U.), member for London University; Mr. Arthur Henderson (L.), member for Durham (Barnard Castle); Mr. Lyell (L.), member for Dorset (East); Mr. Malcolm (C.), member for Suffolk (Stowmarket); Viscount Morpeth (U.), member for Birmingham (South); Mr. Pierpont (C.), member for Warrington; Sir J. Stirling Maxwell, Bart. (C.), member for College Division of Glasgow; Mr. H. J. Tennant (L.), member for Berwickshire; and Sir John Batty Tuke (C.), member for Edinburgh and St Andrews Universities.

Mr. H. J. Tennant has been appointed Chairman, and the Committee has held six meetings and heard evidence from the following witnesses:—

In favour of Registration.—Dr. Bedford Fenwick; Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Miss M. Huxley, President Irish Nurses' Association; Mr. M. C. Walshe, Managing Director Male Nurses' Temperance Co-operation; Miss Annie J. Hobbs, Secretary Royal British Nurses' Association; and Miss Amy Hughes, Superintendent County Nursing Associations, Q. V. J. I.

Against Registration.—Mr. Charles Burt, Chairman Royal Free Hospital and Chairman Central Hospital Council for London; the Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital; and Dr. Norman Moore, Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Tuesday July 26th, was the last day on which evidence was taken for the present Session, but it is presumable that, as so many more persons have offered to give evidence, it will be re-appointed next Session.

THE REGISTRATION MOVEMENT IN SCOTLAND.

I have pleasure in reporting that since our last meeting a Committee has been formed in Scotland, the object of which is to advance the interests of the Bill for State Registration, and to make its objects known amongst nurses in Scotland. The Committee includes Lady Helen Munro Ferguson; Colonel Warburton, M.D., C.S.I.; Dr. Ker, Medical Superintendent City Fever Hospital, Edinburgh; Dr. P. H. Maclaren, Dr. James, Dr. Gibson; Dr. Joseph Bell, Chairman

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