

willingness to act as the sixth delegate, and was appointed.

*The Benevolent Fund.*—Mrs. Matthews was able to announce a balance of £38 18s. 9d. to the credit of the Benevolent Fund. There had been no calls on the Fund during the past year.

*Conference on Affiliation of Nursing Associations.*—Miss Todd reported that she had attended the Conference of Delegates of Nursing Leagues and self-governing associations held in London "to discuss organisation with a view to international affiliation," at which it had been decided to form a Provisional Committee, composed of six delegates from each of the seven participating societies, to act as the intermediary with this country with the International Council of Nurses until such time as this Committee represents by delegation 5,000 nurses, when a Constitution forming a National Council of Nurses of England will be considered.

*State Registration.*—Mrs. Hayward, as the Delegate of the League on the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, presented an excellent summary of its work, in which she said that, "in spite of much organised opposition in influential quarters, mainly in London, encouraging support has been given, and great interest evinced in all quarters of the civilised world where State Registration of Nurses has been promulgated, and the history of the movement during its two years' life has been one of steady growth and advance," culminating in the announcement in the House of Commons on the 6th ult. by the Prime Minister of his intention to appoint a Select Committee to inquire into the Nursing Question and State Registration of Nurses.

*The Berlin Congress.*—Miss M. Jenkins (Sister Casualty) presented an admirable account of her visit to Berlin as the Delegate of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses to the International Congress of Women and the International Council of Nurses, in which she touched on the nursing meetings and also on some interesting visits to Berlin hospitals.

*Collecting Cards.*—Miss Whitley, dealing with the collection for the Hospital Appeal Fund made by members of the League, reported that the total amount on the few cards already returned was about £306. She asked the members of the League to return the cards by August next.

The result recorded so far is most encouraging, and shows the strong affection entertained by Bart's nurses for their Alma Mater. It was decided to appoint a sub-committee to consider the destination of the money collected. The announcement that Mrs. G. F. Wates, who has done such excellent work as Hon. Secretary for the past two years, found it necessary to resign the position was received with great regret. As the secretarial work has considerably increased, and is likely to do so,

Rule V. of the Constitution was altered to admit of the appointment of two Secretaries, and Mrs. Matthews and Miss Whitley were appointed to these offices. As four members of the Executive Committee retire each year, it was necessary to appoint a corresponding number of new members, and Sister Mark (Miss Greenstreet); Miss A. M. Bird, Night Sister at University College Hospital; Miss G. Henman, Home Sister at Charing Cross Hospital; and Miss I. Heberden, were elected to fill the vacancies.

Miss Stewart simply electrified the meeting by stating that, at the end of another year, she intended to resign the Presidency of the League, as by the next annual meeting she would have held the position for six years, and she thought it would be for the general good that there should be a change of President. It was well that things should not get into a groove, and that the members should learn to manage their own affairs. This announcement was met with a chorus of dissent, which testified to the unanimous appreciation of the manner in which she has filled the office. Miss Stewart said further that even in retiring from the Presidency her services would be at the disposal of the League, whose interests she had very closely at heart.

It is sincerely to be hoped that Miss Stewart will reconsider her determination to resign, as there is no member of the League who can fill the office with any hope of success in this transitory condition of nursing politics. We know that in expressing this opinion it is the popular one.

The members then adjourned to the Great Hall, which has never looked more festive, where tea, iced coffee, strawberries and cream, and other dainties were served at little tables, beautifully decorated with pink pæonies and roses, round which groups of members quickly gathered, and enjoyed to the full the rare opportunity of a gossip with old friends, an opportunity which the League has put within reach of those who in days gone by were closely associated, but whose duties subsequently lay in widely different directions. Amongst those who were most warmly received were Miss Courtney Smith and Miss Sisely, recently returned from the Soudan.

Amongst the guests were:—Miss Rogers, Matron Leicester Infirmary, and Miss Silney Browne, Matron-in-Chief, and several nurses in the uniform of other hospitals. The magnificent new portrait of King Edward VII., late President of the Hospital, in his gorgeous crimson robes, wearing the Blue Ribbon of the Garter, painted by Luke Fildes, which now hangs opposite to the life-like portrait of Henry VIII., came in for a vast amount of admiration. We hope, now that Queen Alexandra has set a good example to women by becoming the first Lady Governor of this ancient hospital, that a companion portrait to that of the King may ere long beautify the Great Hall. M. B.

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