

nurse"—little enough to ask—and we must persist until we get it.

A special clause also provided that nothing contained in the Act should be considered as conferring any authority to practise medicine or to undertake the treatment of disease, so that the fears expressed by some medical men were baseless.

The speaker then commented on the progress made in the Colonies and the United States, where Registration was reported to be working beneficially to all concerned.

Before the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. Fenwick spoke briefly of the international relations of nurses, of how through organised National Councils of Nurses, composed of the elect of the Leagues and Nursing Societies, they might come into sisterly association with their colleagues in other lands, and she expressed the hope that the Parish of Nottingham Nurses' League would consider the advisability of seeking representation on the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of England, and thus give its support to the principle of professional co-operation.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker.

#### OPPOSITION TO STATE REGISTRATION.

At a recent meeting of the Tottenham Division of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association the following resolution was moved by Dr. Fuller, and on his advice adopted by the Branch:—

That the Division of the Branch deplores the resolution passed at Oxford by the representatives in meeting with regard to the Nurses Registration Bill, as being detrimental to the interests of the legitimate practitioners for the following reasons:—

1. That there is absolutely no necessity for the Bill. The nurses should always be chosen by the doctor, who knows, and not by the patient, who is ignorant of a nurse's qualifications.

2. It gives the nurse an importance that does not rightly belong to her. Hers is a position of obedience, and registration would give her imaginary rights not tending to peaceful relations with those whose orders she must obey.

3. It is setting up another order of practitioner. "Qualified medical, surgical, and obstetrical nurse," "midwifery attended"—is a common sign to be seen in poorer districts now, and would, of course, become more so.

4. The poorer classes have already to distinguish between the bonesetter, the midwife, the chemist, and the doctor (all with the power to advertise except the last), and now the registered nurse is to be added.

#### THE KING TO VISIT MANCHESTER.

It is stated that the King will visit Manchester in the spring of next year, when it is hoped that his Majesty will open the Sanatorium for Consumptives now being erected in Delamere Forest.

## The Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

All good things come to those who wait. We, who have felt the inspiration of cordial professional relations, and mutual goodwill with our colleagues across the seas, who realise that the present age is an age of combination, and that we must think and act in communities if we are to do so effectively, have waited with what patience we could muster for the fruition of our hopes—namely, the affiliation of some central body in this country with the International Council of Nurses.

Friday in last week saw the fulfilment of the desire which has animated some of us since the great International Congress of Women was held in London in 1899, when we learnt the strength of the International Bond which has "lifted women of many nations, many creeds, many tongues, many walks of life, out of their former isolation into a fuller, freer atmosphere." We have longed ever since to see the same principle applied to our own profession, and, to the more ardent spirits amongst us, five years has seemed a long time to wait. We have been confronted by the difficulties of which Mrs. May Wright Sewall, President of the International Council of Women, spoke when she supported the formation of an International Council of Nurses at the Matrons' Council meeting in 1899. "I wish to speak," she said, "of certain difficulties that we must face in order that we may overcome them, and while my friends are either kind, or unkind, enough to imply that I may fly—and flying is not practised—while they walk, and that is the accepted method of locomotion, I will say that I see nothing that is not entirely practical both in the International Idea itself, and in this application of it."

We in this country cannot be accused of flying. We have walked soberly every step of the way, hand in hand with those of our colleagues who prefer the more usually-accepted method of locomotion; but at last, through the organisation adopted in April—the Provisional Committee of a National Council of Nurses, formed of delegates of Nurses' Leagues and self-governing societies of nurses—we have considered and accepted the invitation of the International Council of Nurses to affiliate with it, and, through it, with similar societies of nurses throughout the world.

#### MEETING OF THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE.

On Friday, November 25th, the members of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of England met at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Miss Isla Stewart, Hon. Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, presided, and delegates of every society represented on the Provisional Committee were present, viz:—

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