

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The President again took the chair, and Miss Dock proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Agnes Sniveley, the retiring Treasurer, for her work and unfailing sympathy with the aspirations of the International Council of Nurses. This proposition was carried by acclamation.

This concluded the business of a most memorable and enjoyable Conference, the tone throughout being one of true harmony and bright sisterly fellowship. British, American, and German nurses, who largely composed the meeting, parted with the eager question: "Where and when shall we meet again?"

Re Education, numerous papers and letters were handed in from Miss Isla Stewart (England), Fraulein Karll (Germany), Dr. Hamilton (France), Miss Turton (Italy), Mrs. Neill (New Zealand), Miss Farquharson (Victoria), and Miss Child (South Africa).

LAVINIA L. DOCK, Honorary Secretary,
International Council of Nurses.

Wedding Bells.

Miss Birdsall Hopkinson has resigned the position of Lady Superintendent, upon her approaching marriage, of the Staffordshire Institution for Nurses at Stoke-on-Trent, and in appreciation of her work she was recently presented by the nursing staff with beautiful gifts, consisting of two entrée dishes, with appropriate inscription, and a set of silver salts, pepperettes, and a mustard pot. The occasion was made one of delightful *réunion* for the nurses, upwards of seventy being present. They were photographed, together with their Lady Superintendent, and good wishes for her happy future were universally expressed.

An Intensely Interesting Inquiry.

The meetings of the Select Committee on Nursing are arousing intense interest. Amongst those who have attended them and closely followed the evidence are Miss Sidney Browne, Matron-in-Chief; Miss Peter, General Superintendent Q.V.J.I.N.; Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; Hon. Sydney Holland; Miss Isla Stewart, St. Bartholomew's; Miss Lückes (London), Miss Monk (King's), Miss Rosalind Paget, Miss S. Cartwright, Miss Amy Hughes, Miss Rogers (Leicester); Miss Hobbs, R.B.N.A.; Miss L. L. Dock; Miss Banfield (Philadelphia); Miss Honor Morten; Mr. Walsh; quite a number of Sisters and nurses, and a sprinkling of medical men. The Committee will not sit this Session after the 26th inst., but so many persons have offered evidence who have not as yet been afforded an opportunity to bring it forward that it is presumable the Committee will be reappointed next Session.

The Select Committee on Nursing.

On Tuesday, the 12th inst., the Committee held its second meeting.

Miss ISLA STEWART was first called. She said she had been for seventeen years Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, having previously been six years at St. Thomas's Hospital, and then Matron of the Small-Pox Hospital at Darent and of the Eastern Fever Hospital at Homerton. With reference to her training, she stated that she was only a probationer for eight months at St. Thomas's Hospital, and was then made a Sister of wards, with the oversight and training of probationers. With reference to the statement that a hospital certificate is the only guarantee the public requires with respect to its nurses, Miss Stewart mentioned that the only official evidence she possessed of her training and six years' work at St. Thomas's Hospital was a letter—which she handed in—stating that she had been awarded the sum of £2 because her conduct had been good during the year. This, until quite recently, was the usual custom. She pointed out that there is at present no uniformity of term or method or standard of training, but the majority of the larger and better hospitals now train their nurses for three years. Each hospital, however, does what it thinks best in the way of giving theoretical instruction to its probationers, and in arranging their work in the wards. Questioned as to the particular methods pursued at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Miss Stewart explained that she interviewed candidates and selected those whom she considered suitable; later, the selected candidates were examined in elementary anatomy and other subjects, to prove that they were of average intelligence and fair education. They were also examined medically to ascertain that their health was good. This examination was conducted by the Instructors of Nurses, who are a physician and a surgeon on the visiting staff of the hospital. Those who passed this examination were received into the service of the hospital as vacancies occurred. After at least three months' work in the wards, each of them appeared before a Committee. If their record of health and work was quite satisfactory, they were recommended to the authorities as suitable to be appointed regular probationers. They have an examination at the end of their first year, and if they pass it they are termed Staff Probationers; if they fail to pass the examination they leave the service of the hospital, unless under special circumstances, when they are allowed to remain for six months longer and undergo another examination. At the end of two years' further training, the Staff Probationers have a further examination by written papers and *visd voce*, and those who pass are awarded a certificate of efficiency. This, however, is never granted to those nurses who fail to prove that they have acquired a minimum standard of knowledge. In the examinations, the medical and surgical instructors can each award a maximum of 200 marks for the written and the *visd voce* examinations; the Matron can also award a maximum of 200 marks for the nurse's general conduct and ward work. In order to pass, each nurse must obtain at least half marks. During the fourth year of their hospital service, the certificated nurses are appointed Staff Nurses and either remain in the hospital wards or join the private nursing staff.

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