

necessarily training-schools), and that such examinations should be conducted by examiners to be appointed by the Central Body.

It approved the Guinea Registration Fee and proposed:—

(4) That a small registration fee should be paid annually towards the publication of the Register.

(5) Approved of a separate Register for asylum nurses.

(6) Approved of the licensing and inspecting of nursing homes and institutions, and consider that lying-in homes should also be added to this recommendation of the Select Committee.

#### NURSING BILLS.

Under this head the Executive Council's Report dealt with the two Registration Bills. The position of the Council in the matter is summed up in the following paragraph in its Report:—

The Council disagreed with the proposals of both Bills, but as regards the latter Bill (R.B.N.A.) only so far as regards the proposals for the Registration of nurses, on the ground that if passed they would, in their opinion, have a prejudicial effect on the Poor Law Nursing Service, as there was nothing in the Bills to prevent the Central Board from declining to recognise Poor Law infirmaries as nursing schools, and if they did so girls would probably not enter the Poor Law Nursing Service as probationers, knowing that the training they would receive in such Service would not qualify them to be registered as nurses, and thus become able to obtain employment in the best class of private nursing.

Dr. Rhodes (Chorlton) asked that every board of guardians would carefully watch this matter. The way guardians and the institutions they administered had been treated by Parliament and the Midwives' Board was a disgrace. He hoped that the Association would speak out plainly, so that unless it had a proper share of representation it would do everything it could to get the Bills thrown out.

The paragraph was adopted.

The truth is that the majority of Poor Law Guardians know little and care less about nurses and their professional education, and are not qualified to deal with it. All over the country from the smaller unions there comes an everlasting wail of complaint of the lack of discipline maintained in these institutions and the neglect and suffering of the poor inmates. Well organised detached Poor Law Infirmaries under the management of resident medical officers and trained Matrons will be able to attain the reasonable practical standards of teaching and training demanded by an expert Central Authority, and Registration would, of course, benefit and not prejudice the Poor Law Nursing Service.

## League News.

### THE SOCIAL GATHERING AT BART'S.

The Bart's League of Nurses thoroughly enjoys its Winter Social Gathering. There is no business meeting connected with it, and it just meets to have a good time.

On Saturday last Miss Isla Stewart, the President, welcomed the members in the fine Medical School Library, the academic atmosphere of which apparently harmonised most happily with the tinkle of innumerable teacups, the strains of a charming band, and a never-ceasing sound of merry talk and laughter. The Sisters and nurses were in their pretty uniforms, Sister Hope wearing the Queen's own South African War Cross, Sister President the beautiful badge given by the late Mr. Luther Holden to his faithful Sisters. Amongst the members present who are now at the head of Metropolitan Nurse-Training Schools was Miss Smedley, of St. George's, distinguished by her gold medal; Miss Finch, of University College Hospital; Miss Cox Davies, of the Royal Free, Miss H. Pearse, of the Great Northern; Miss Neville, of the West London. All the hon. officers were present—Mrs. Matthews and Miss Whitley, now governors of the hospital, and Miss M. Jenkins.

Great interest was aroused by the red ribbon bows worn by the members of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses, the whole Committee having been invited to attend the Social Gathering of the Senior League, and all the affiliated societies were represented.

Miss Rogers, the Chairman, and Miss Lina Sherlock were present from Leicester; Miss H. Pearse, Miss Marquardt, and Miss M. Breay, Matrons' Council; Miss Cox Davies, Miss Jenkins, and Miss Waind, Bart's League; Miss E. C. Barton, Chelsea League; Miss M. Burr, Mrs. Day, and Miss Waugh, St. John's House League; Miss Lea Smith, Royal South Hants League; Miss J. A. Smith, and Miss F. Gibbs, Kingston Infirmary League; Miss E. F. Dwight, Parish of Nottingham League; Miss E. M. Roberts, Miss Kate Richmond, Society for State Registration of Nurses; Miss S. E. Cartwright and Miss E. J. Boden, Registered Nurses' Society; and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Hon. President of the International Council of Nurses. From four to five there was a constant coming of members, and until six o'clock the scene was most gay and picturesque, and we caught scraps of conversation here and there proving the keen interest of those present in the Nursing World at home and abroad. Sister Karll's splendid work in Germany—the awakening of France to the necessity for more tender care of the sick—nursing affairs in Canada, South Africa, and in those progressive "States" and then, of course, Registration. Everyone seemed very happy about that, and realised that "Our League" had done and was going to do its part. Indeed, the spirit of fellowship was shining clear and bright in happy faces, straight from kindly hearts, and this is the spirit that is going to make Registration alive for the common good—when it comes. Then with happy *au revoir*, the curtain came down.

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