

DR. LANGLEY BROWNE.

Dr. Langley Browne, who was next called upon, said that the large majority of medical men were in favour of a system of Registration of Nurses. The British Medical Association had twice in annual meeting endorsed this principle, *nemine dissentiente*, and by the wish of the last annual meeting it had been referred to the Divisions which were now considering the subject in detail. Only one branch had objected to the decision of the annual meeting on this question. Registration of Nurses would be of great advantage to the medical profession. They had no time to enquire minutely into the credentials of nurses, but it was most important to them to be sure that they could rely on the nurses they employed. Of this at present they had no guarantee even if they obtained the services of nurses from institutions having a large number on their staffs. They would be able to ascertain from a State Register that a nurse had had three years' training.

There was a great difference in the standard attained by the nurses now, to that of the past, and this difference was due to the efforts of the nurses themselves. They were now a large and numerous body, and they were entitled to take rank, as the medical profession does, as a self-governing profession. Years ago there were good nurses, but, since ladies took up and organised nursing, the great improvement which has taken place has been universally acknowledged.

At the present time, however, many hospitals maintain different standards. A Central Council is needed to regulate and assimilate the training, and arrange for examinations at its conclusion. One of the duties of the Central Board would be to test the knowledge of candidates for registration, the bare fact of registration, if it did not carry with it this power, would be of very little use.

On that body nurses should have the control. It was they who had made their profession what it was, and they ought to have the numerical control when it was formed. They should elect their own representatives. In the case of the election of the Direct Representatives on the General Medical Council the necessary expense entailed only amounted to about £500 every five years, so that it was not a costly matter. Personally he would prefer that all members of the Board should be elected by the nurses. Dr. Langley Browne concluded by once more stating that in asking the State for Registration trained nurses had the support of the majority of the medical profession.

MRS. GARRETT FAWCETT, LL.D.

Mrs. Garrett Fawcett said that the general public in ever increasing numbers looked forward to the Registration of Nurses. At present they had so little protection. If it was not the cowl which made the monk, neither was it the cap and apron which made the nurse.

Many nurses were all that could be desired, in others both training and moral qualities were defective. She looked to the influence of a Central Nursing Board to set up higher standards of both professional and general education for nurses, as well as professional standards of honour. By some of its members the whole tone of the profession was elevated, but with others there was much to be desired.

She had had personal experience of the conduct of nurses in the course of a three weeks' voyage to South Africa. The conduct of some was excellent. To others she would be sorry to entrust the care of a sick dog. Some of these were shouting for champagne at eleven o'clock in the morning—conduct which was no doubt disapproved by their colleagues. The disciplinary effect of the General Medical Council had been good, and she had no doubt the same result would be attained in the case of a General Nursing Council.

MISS M. MOLLETT.

Miss M. Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants Hospital, said that she had been called upon at the last moment to take the place of Miss Isla Stewart, who, most unfortunately, had been prevented by her hospital duties from being present. She shared Miss Stewart's views, and she spoke as Matron of a County Hospital.

Registration would enable the nursing profession to eliminate its black sheep, and would undoubtedly raise the general standard of nursing. Training at present was very unequal. In some hospitals the system of training was excellent. In others committees regarded the training school as a cheap form of obtaining labour. Many hospitals engaged probationers, kept them for three years, and certified them at the end of that time. They had no lectures and no teaching. It followed that they must be incapable.

County hospitals, in which the training was well organised, formed excellent training ground, because as there were no medical students the nurses did much practical work allotted to the former in hospitals with medical schools.

Miss Mollett also laid stress on the importance of ample direct representation of the nurses themselves on their Governing Body.

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