

The Irish Nurses' Association.

AN INTERESTING REPORT.

The combined reports of the Irish Matrons' Association and the Irish Nurses' Associations, which come to us "wearing o' the green," afford striking evidence of the power of co-operation. By means of these Associations, Irish Matrons and nurses are able to keep in touch with their English colleagues on nursing matters, and to take effective action in regard to matters affecting the profession as a whole.

The Irish Matrons' Association was founded in December, 1903. Its two first Presidents have been Miss MacDonnell, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent of the Richmond Hospital, and Miss Ramsden, Lady Superintendent of the Rotunda Hospital. One useful bit of work it has accomplished has been to arrange with the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses to hold an examination in Dublin, instead of putting Irish Nurses to the expense and inconvenience of attending the examination in London. It also together with the Irish Nurses' Association appointed Miss Huxley as its delegate to the Board of Trade when the protest against the granting of a license to the seven laymen, forming the Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses, was successfully made.

The Irish Nurses' Association began its existence in 1900 as the Nurses' Club, Dublin, the primary objects being to provide a meeting place for nurses where professional matters could be discussed, to bring the members of the various branches of the nursing profession into touch with one another, and to provide a Reading Room. The name was afterwards changed to that of the Irish Nurses' Association with the object of emphasising the fact that nurses all over the country are invited to participate in its benefits.

The Report states that "at this critical time, when State Registration of Trained Nurses is a question of practical politics, the Committee wish to point out that it is the duty of nurses to combine together in order that they may appoint Representatives on the Central Board to guard their interests, and to keep them informed how those interests may be affected by legislation."

The Irish Nurses' Association also "pledge themselves to make it their first business in any Act of Parliament affecting Trained Nurses that may be passed, that the rights of all women who gain their livelihood by sick nursing shall be respected."

The Association also "strongly condemns the action of the Royal British Nurses' Association in redrafting a Bill for State Registration of Trained Nurses which does not make sufficient provision for the direct representation of Trained Nurses."

THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The third anniversary of the Irish Nurses' Association was held at 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, on Saturday evening, 17th inst. The chair was taken at 7 p.m. by Miss Hampson, President. After the minutes of the last general meeting were read, the following six members were elected as delegates to act on the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses:—Miss Huxley; Miss Lamont, Superintendent, Irish Branch, Q.V.J.I.; Miss MacDonnell, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent Richmond Hospital; Mrs. Manning, Matron, Dental Hospital; Miss Carson Rae, Matron, Cork Street Fever Hospital; and Miss Beadsmore Smith, R.R.C., Matron Royal Military Hospital, Dublin.

After an animated discussion, it was proposed and carried that a distinctive badge be adopted by the members of the Association; a prize was offered by two members present for the best design for the badge (members only to compete). Miss Hampson, Miss Huxley, and Mrs. Kildare Tracey were re-elected to act as the financial committee.

Miss Hampson, retiring President, then addressed the meeting, giving in her characteristic bright style an outline of the work accomplished during the past year, submitted the balance-sheet, and concluded by giving a graphic account of her recent visit to London, where she had represented the Association on a Deputation received by the Lord President of the Privy Council to hear evidence regarding the necessity of State Examination and Registration of Trained Nurses, also of the kind hospitality she had received during her brief visit to the metropolis.

Mrs. Kildare Tracey was elected Vice-President for the ensuing year by a very large majority.

Miss Kelly, Lady Superintendent of Dr. Steevens' Hospital, then took the chair as President, and a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring President was proposed in a few well-chosen words by Miss Haughton, seconded by Miss Butler, and carried by acclamation.

At the conclusion of the business meeting tea, ices, &c., were served, and the usual social evening was thoroughly enjoyed, thanks to the Amusement Committee, who had arranged a varied and interesting programme.

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