

which it was absolutely impossible for them to leave the hospital in which they were working. She knew this in her own experience as a member of the Council of the Scottish Branches of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute and the Colonial Nursing Association, and as a former manager of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

Quite recently a nurse who had been summoned before the Committee of the Colonial Nurses' Association was unable to come, and the same thing frequently happened. If the General Nursing Council were composed of too few members it would be quite impossible at times for the nurse members to attend, and she was a little afraid that a difficulty would arise in finding a quorum to deal with the enormous amount of business which will certainly devolve upon it.

In regard to the suggestion of the Select Committee that hospitals should conduct their own examinations, Miss Stevenson advocated a central examination. Although in some hospitals the teaching was good, everyone knew of others in which it was not what it ought to be. Moreover, it would be a great waste of power if the smaller hospitals were not included in the educational scheme as teaching centres. They could do a certain amount of teaching most effectively, although they could not give a complete course of training.

Another point was that there were splendid nurses who could not teach. A great deal was being said just now of teachers being taught to teach. She hoped that the teaching given by the different hospitals would be taken into consideration in the passing of any Act.

She wished specially to emphasise the importance of those two points. The formation of a Council sufficiently large to do the work which would be imposed upon it, and that a wide view should be taken as to the responsibilities of teaching.

Miss Stevenson also referred to the increased stability of the Society owing to the fact that during the past year Miss Sidney Browne, late Matron-in-Chief Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and Miss Pauline Peter, late Superintendent Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, has joined its ranks.

Miss Isla Stewart briefly referred to the Agenda before the meeting. As to the formation of the Council she showed that in the Constitution now proposed the representatives of Societies had been eliminated, and all Matrons and nurses were to be elected. This was a reform giving the utmost freedom of opinion to the representatives of the nurses. Nominees of Societies must always be guided by

the Society they represent. To have the members elected, therefore, by a free electorate was a long step on the road to freedom.

She had not much to say on the subject of the proposed petition to the Prime Minister except that it would involve considerable time and trouble and the officers would need all the help that members of the Society could give them.

She thought German nurses were to be greatly congratulated on having obtained their registration. English nurses had been asking for registration for the last eighteen years, and had not yet succeeded in obtaining it, German nurses had been working for this end only for three or four. Was the reason for their success that they gave their whole mind to the subject in hand?

She would not discuss the invitation to join the Deputation to the Prime Minister on the Suffrage question. She was herself a suffragist, but would leave the meeting to discuss the matter on its merits.

The Hon. Secretary, then presented the Annual Report.*

At its conclusion Miss Stevenson said she was sure all present had listened with the greatest interest to the most interesting Report which had been prepared by the Hon. Secretary. She moved its adoption from the chair.

Miss E. S. Haldane said she had very great pleasure in seconding the adoption of the most interesting and exhaustive Report they had just heard. She was sure that all present must be encouraged and cheered. The adoption of the report was then carried unanimously.

Mrs. Fenwick then presented the Audited Accounts, which showed a balance in hand of nearly £70. In connection with the satisfactory financial position she said that the Society owed a great deal to one generous supporter who desired to remain anonymous. She pointed out also that it had spent little or nothing on clerical work, that it had received many kind donations from members, and that a considerable number of new members had been kind enough to pay the life-membership subscription. The adoption of the audited accounts was also moved from the chair and seconded by Miss Haldane. Miss Stevenson remarked that no one could have conducted the business so economically as their Hon. Secretary, and that at the last Annual Meeting at which she had presided Mr. Tennant, who was present, had expressed his astonishment at the large amount of work done on the small expenditure.

* This Report will appear in our next issue.—Ed.

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