

by Miss Helen Todd, Matron of the Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth, and seconded by Miss Pearse, Matron of the Great Northern Central Hospital:—

“That a Petition be drawn up and circulated for signature asking that the Bill for State Registration of Trained Nurses be made a Government Measure.”

Miss Todd explained the enormous difference it would make as to the possibility of obtaining State Registration if the Premier could be induced to grant such a Petition. She showed that the chances of a Private Members' Bill obtaining a useful place in the Ballot were exceedingly small, and if a day for discussing it were secured it could be talked out by obstructionists.

In the event of a Bill being made a Government Measure a proper opportunity was afforded for its discussion, and it received the support of most of the rank and file of the party.

The Chairman proposed the addition to the Resolution of the words “next Session.” This was accepted by Miss Todd, and the Resolution was carried unanimously.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GERMAN NURSES.

The following Resolution was then proposed by Miss Mary Burr and seconded by Lady Hermione Blackwood:—

“That the cordial congratulations of the Society be conveyed to the German Nurses' Association on the attainment of State Registration of Trained Nurses in the German Empire, and especially congratulating the President of the Association, Sister Agnes Karll, on the success of her invaluable work in this connection.”

Miss Burr said it was her great honour and pleasure to be one of those who were present at the Congress in Berlin in 1904. The impression that the German woman was the typical haus-frau was partly true, but she was also an advanced thinker and there were many splendid workers and organisers amongst them. Such a worker was Sister Agnes Karll, who had realised that nurses were women capable of uniting for higher standards of nursing and their own professional advancement.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

DEPUTATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Mrs. Fenwick then read the following letter from Miss Edith Palliser, Secretary of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies:

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

You will no doubt have heard that the Prime Minister will receive, on May 19th, a

Deputation consisting of Members of Parliament, various women's organisations, and joint organisations of women and men, to lay before him their views on Women's Suffrage and to ask for Government action.

We are anxious that the Deputation should be as representative as possible of all women's organisations, and I am therefore writing to ask you if your Committee would see fit to appoint a Representative from your Association to attend the Deputation.

An early reply would oblige as I am anxious to complete all arrangements as soon as possible.

Believe me, dear Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,

Yours sincerely,

EDITH PALLISER.

Lady Roberts-Austen, Vice-President, who supported the proposition, said she was very glad the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was to have the chance of sending a Delegate to take part in the Deputation to the Prime Minister on the Women's Suffrage Question. It was a question which, as trained nurses and professional women, they must have at heart, because when once women gained the Suffrage it would put the necessary Parliamentary power into their hands. It was at the root of all reform which women were specially interested in obtaining such as State Registration of Nurses, temperance legislation, better laws for children. She hoped the Meeting would accept the proposition.

Mrs. Fenwick seconded after reporting two letters in opposition to the Society taking part in the Deputation. She said she considered it a privilege for the Society to be invited to support so important a Deputation on a matter of such vital importance to women. It had remained for Mr. Cecil Rhodes to give to the women of the world a worthy motto: “The Vote Covers All”; with it we could act, without it the position of women in the body politic must be a helpless and somewhat hopeless one. Women primarily needed the vote to inspire them with that sense of self respect which full citizenship could alone bestow.

And from a material standpoint, one had but to step across the street into the Queen's Hall and see the Sweated Trades Exhibition to realise the degradation of unenfranchised womanhood.

Anyway, we were women first and nurses second, and nothing which was ennobling to the sex as a whole could possibly injure us as a class. She warmly supported the resolution that Delegates be nominated.

This resolution was carried unanimously, and Mrs. Fenwick, Lady Roberts-Austen, and Miss Mary Burr were elected to represent the

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