

Society if more than one Delegate was required.

#### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The following members of the Executive Committee were then elected:—Miss Ross, delegate Matron's Council; Miss Laura Baker, delegate St. John's House Nurses' League; Miss S. Cartwright, delegate Registered Nurses' Society; Miss J. A. Smith, President Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League; Miss Heather-Bigg, Matron Charing Cross Hospital; Miss Cox-Davies, Matron Royal Free Hospital; Miss H. L. Pearse, Matron Great Northern Hospital; Miss Barton, Matron Chelsea Infirmary; Miss Marquardt, Matron Camberwell Infirmary; Miss Helen Todd, Matron National Sanatorium, Bournemouth; Miss M. Breay, Hon. Secretary Matrons' Council; Miss Mary Burr, Hon. Secretary St. John's House Nurses' League; Miss E. M. Roberts; Miss E. S. Haldane, Miss Sandford, Miss Wade, Scotland; Miss Huxley, Miss MacDonnell, R.R.C., Mrs. Kildare-Treacy, Ireland.

The following ladies were nominated for seats on the Committee, subject to their consent to act:—Miss Mollett, President Royal South Hants Nurses' League; Miss Rogers, President, Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League; Miss Dwight, President, Bagthorpe Infirmary Nurses' League; and Miss Peter, late General Superintendent, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses. The League of St. Barts. Hospital Nurses were to be invited to nominate a delegate in place of Mrs. Hayward, resigned.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

Forty-eight new members were elected.

Miss Todd then proposed a Resolution of thanks to Mrs. Fenwick as Editor of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for the services rendered by the Journal to the Registration cause and to the Society during the past year. This was warmly seconded by Miss Isla Stewart, who said that the Society owed much of its prosperity to Mrs. Fenwick.

Miss Stewart then proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to Miss Stevenson for presiding, and expressed the hope, which was cordially endorsed by the meeting, that she would long retain the office of President. This was seconded by Miss E. S. Haldane, who added the warmest congratulations of the Society to its President on the honour recently accorded to her by Edinburgh University in conferring on her the Hon. Degree of Doctor of Laws.

The meeting then terminated, a cordial invitation being given by the President to all present to adjourn to 431, Oxford Street for tea.

M. B.

## Progress of State Registration.

At a meeting of the Northern and Midland Division of the Medico-Psychological Association, held at Derby recently, Dr. Harding, Medical Superintendent at Berry Wood Asylum, Northampton, opened a discussion on the Training and Registration of the Asylum Nurse. After stating what he considered ought to be the minimum training of an asylum nurse, he mentioned that a three years' course of training had been in existence at Berry Wood for sixteen years, but that only about 16 per cent. of the nurses who entered the service gained the certificate. He spoke in strong terms of the inadequacy of the system of training and examination of nurses carried on by the Medico-Psychological Association. He pointed out that the only thing in which there was uniformity was the written examination—the least important method of gauging a nurse's efficiency. There was, however, no uniformity in the more essential parts of the examination, while the candidate might actually have had no practical sick-room training at all. He affirmed that the ignorance of some holders of the certificate proved this fact. The value of the certificate was therefore indefinite, and conveyed no indication of the knowledge and experience of the holder, who might be well equipped for her work, or who might be the reverse. Thus a great injustice was done both to the able and well-trained women holding the certificate, and to the public, who had no satisfactory guide to the capacity of the nurse they might employ. It was therefore absurd to claim that the restriction of the right to register to the holders of the Medico-Psychological certificate was any guarantee of efficiency, but rather the reverse. While recognising and giving full credit to the Association for their past work with regard to nursing, he urged the unfitness of a self-elected body of medical men to act as the sole arbiters to decide what the training and examination of a mental nurse should be. It was absurd that no one, however able and interested, should have anything to say on the question of the nursing of the insane, unless he or she were a member of the Association. Its Education Committee contained no representative either of the public, of general nursing, or of the mental nurses themselves. He referred to the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Registration of Nurses, and pointed out the different treatment allotted to hospital nurses as compared with asylum nurses. He advocated the representation of asylum

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