

Leeds, and the Galen House Nurses' Institute, Guildford.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Miss M. Mollett, President of the Royal South Hants Nurses' League, and Miss Mary Burr, Hon. Secretary of the League of St. John's House Nurses, have been elected Vice-Presidents.

It is with great regret that we have to record the death one of our Vice-Presidents, Miss Flora Stevenson, LL.D.

THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Select Committee of the House of Commons on Registration of Nurses, was re-appointed last Session, and issued its Report, which proved to be a document of the utmost importance, on July 25th, 1905. This report stated that "Your Committee are agreed that it is desirable that a Register of Nurses should be kept by a Central Body appointed by the State," so that the fundamental principle of our demands has been conceded. The Blue Book and Appendices have also been published, and repay careful study.

This Report was carefully considered by your Executive Committee, which, while recognising with great satisfaction many of its liberal suggestions, dissented from the following recommendations:—

(1) That the hospitals should conduct final examinations and certificate their nurses, as they considered this work should be done by a Central Examining Board.

(2) That the fee for Registration should be £1 1s. It was considered that this sum was quite inadequate, and that the nurses would prefer to pay more for professional privileges than that their Governing Body should be subsidised by the State.

(3) That a Central Body of eleven to fifteen persons, as recommended, would not be sufficiently representative or able to deal satisfactorily with the great amount of work which would devolve upon it.

A Sub-Committee was appointed to re-draft the Bill, to bring it as far as possible into line with the recommendations of the Select Committee. The result of its deliberations were presented to a Special General Meeting of Members on January 19th, 1906, and its suggestions agreed to. They provided for a reduction of the General Nursing Council from thirty-one members to twenty-two, the addition of a Supplementary Register of Asylum Trained Nurses to be called the Mental Nurses' Register, and the admission of nurses trained in the

Colonies to the Register upon reciprocal terms.

THE BILL.

Mr. R. C. Munro Ferguson, Member for Leith Burghs, kindly consented to introduce the Bill into Parliament this Session, and it was backed by Sir John H. Kennaway, P.C., and Mr. A. Fell, Unionists; Dr. Macnamara, Mr. Eve, K.C., Mr. A. W. Black, W.S., Mr. C. D. Rose, Liberals; Mr. William Crooks, Labour, and Mr. McKillop, Nationalist. Mr. Munro Ferguson also balloted for the Bill, but did not get a place.

CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

On March 1st Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., late Chairman of the Select Committee, and other Members of Parliament, consented to receive at our request a deputation of Matrons at the House of Commons, when the views which they expressed on various important details in the Bills for the State Registration of Nurses to be presented to Parliament were accorded sympathetic attention. The Matrons were unanimous in support of:—

(1) A Central Nursing Council of sufficient size to be thoroughly representative of the interests of every branch of nursing, and to permit of ample autonomy for Scotland and Ireland.

(2) A Central Examining Body for the nursing profession.

(3) A fee for examination and registration, which would permit the profession to be self-supporting and not rate-aided.

DEPUTATION TO THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

On March 8th an important deputation was received at the Privy Council Office by the Right Honourable the Earl of Crewe, Lord President of the Council, to place before him the case for the Registration of Nurses.

The following ladies and gentlemen formed the Deputation which was invited and introduced by Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P.:—Viscount Morpeth, M.P.; Sir John Dickson Poynder, M.P.; Mr. Munro Ferguson, M.P.; Mr. Charles Hobhouse, M.P.; Sir James Crichton Browne; Dr. Bedford Fenwick; Dr. H. Langley Browne, and the following Vice-Presidents and Matron members of this Society; The Lady Helen Munro Ferguson; Mrs. Garrett Fawcett, LL.D.; Miss E. S. Haldane, Chairman Scottish Registration Committee; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Hon. President International Council of Nurses; Miss S. E. Hampson, President Irish Nurses' Association; Miss Peter, late General Superintendent Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses; Miss H. L. Pearse, Matron Great

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