

ing was as much entitled to a diploma as a student who passed the examination of the Conjoint Colleges. It was eminently just that those who could pass a severe examination should have something more than a certificate. He did not wish to cast a slur on the certificates of the best training schools, but these were not the only ones which were scattered broadcast, and the public had no means of discriminating as to the value of certificates.

Miss Davis asked if the Association went in for this diploma now how its value would be affected if a State Registration Act were passed.

The Chairman said it was not likely the Registration Bills before the House of Commons would become law this Session, but when registration came Parliament would certainly take cognisance of accomplished facts. He added that if no one had anything to say on the subject, he would put the first recommendation to the meeting, "That the Association do grant diplomas after examination." This was carried with two dissentients.

The next recommendation concerned the holding of examinations at local centres.

The recommendations up to No. 13 were put to the meeting and carried with a monotonous regularity.

No. 14 was "That the fee for the examination and diploma shall be two guineas."

Dr. Outterson Wood said it was desirable to have an expression of opinion from the nurses on this point, and Sir James Crichton Browne said he only wished they would speak,

Mrs. Latter, the R.B.N.A. representative on the Central Midwives' Board, made the astonishing and ignorant statement that midwives pay a fee of two guineas, and she thought it was not too much for nurses to pay this for the privilege of a diploma.

Miss Bartlett said that nurses could not afford two guineas.

Dr. Berkeley said that the registration fee of £1 ls. was included, and opined it was not possible to do it for less. The recommendation was carried.

NO EDUCATIONAL STANDARD, OR PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN SPECIALITIES REQUIRED.

The next recommendation was "That the Corporation shall not at present take cognisance of preliminary education." On this recommendation Dr. Thorne said that the Executive considered it would constitute an interference with the great training schools if the Association demanded preliminary education when they did not.

The next recommendation which aroused any comment was No. 17, referring to the subjects in which nurses were to be examined. The Chairman said that it was the strong wish of Dr. Biernacki that candidates should have been instructed in fever nursing; he even desired that they should have some practical experience, say three months. He (the Chairman) did not consider there was much in this suggestion. A nurse who could gain the diploma of the Association was perfectly

capable of dealing with a fever patient under the direction of a competent medical man, if it were the first case she had ever seen, and he should not have the smallest hesitation in entrusting her with it. Medical men constantly had to treat many cases on general principles, which they had never before seen.

The recommendations up to and including No. 22 were then carried.

Clause 24 was "That the Executive Committee should be empowered to confer hon. diplomas on distinguished persons."

SOCIAL PATRONAGE TO BE INVOKED.

Dr. Bezly Thorne explained that it was not suggested to confer hon. diplomas merely on "deserving nurses," but on the same class of persons as would receive University degrees. Members of the Royal Family, distinguished foreigners, and nurses whose names would add lustre to the list, such as Miss Nightingale. That was the type proposed. (He wisely added, as an afterthought, if Miss Nightingale would accept it!)

Sir James Crichton Browne said it was the custom of other Societies, such as the Royal Society, to confer honours on distinguished persons, and the King was a Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.

A member said that the honours would be conferred on the Corporation by the distinguished persons.

The recommendations were then put to the meeting, and carried with two dissentients.

DR. BEZLY THORNE'S SCHEME.

Mrs. Latter said she congratulated Dr. Bezly Thorne, to whom the thanks of the meeting were really due, that this scheme had been carried through.

Sir James Crichton Browne endorsed this, and associated with Dr. Thorne the names of Mrs. Coster, Miss Bramwell, Dr. Hawkins, Mr. Langton, Dr. Comyns Berkeley, and Dr. Howard Barrett.

The resolution was seconded by Dr. Outterson Wood, who claimed that they were "making history, and giving to the nursing world a status which it had never had before!"

Miss Ambler Jones said that there was no provision for the withdrawal of diplomas, and suggested that it be an instruction to the Executive Committee to prepare a clause, satisfactory to the solicitor, and to include it in the regulations. This also was adopted by a silent, complaisant meeting.

The meeting then concluded, the Chairman remarking he had now presided at a good many R.B.N.A. meetings, they were always pleasant, but he had never had greater pleasure in presiding than on the present occasion.

TASTES DIFFER.

The meeting then terminated.

The Registration Bill of the R.B.N.A. was on Monday last introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Claude Hay, Member for Hoxton.

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