

The Ulster Branch of the Irish Nurses' Association.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The annual meeting of the Ulster Branch of the Irish Nurses' Association took place on Wednesday, April 10th, at the Deaf and Dumb Institute, College Square, Belfast. There was a very good attendance, about 60 nurses being present. After the Secretary and Treasurer's report had been presented to the meeting, the President of the Branch, Lady Hermione Blackwood, gave an address. She spoke of the splendid work done by the Irish Nurses' Association in Dublin for the benefit of the nursing profession, and said that the Ulster Branch looked forward to co-operating with Dublin in its good work. She went on to speak of the excessive death rate from tuberculosis in Ireland, and of the necessity for educating public opinion in the country in matters of sanitation and cleanliness. Nurses, she said, had a great responsibility in the matter as they had the necessary knowledge and opportunities for spreading information on the subjects, and no matter to what branch of the profession they belonged they should aim at leaving a supporter in the cause of hygienic and legislative reform behind them in every house they visited. Private nurses often spent time in the houses of those who had a say in the framing of our laws and bye-laws, and might often profitably use the hours of convalescence (generally found so intolerably dull both by patient and nurse) in interesting the patients or their relatives in such subjects as State Registration of Nurses, the extension of the Midwives' Act to Ireland, etc.

THE PARIS CONFERENCE.

Miss Bostock, Matron of the Royal Victoria Hospital, and Vice-President of the Branch, then spoke of the Paris Conference, and many nurses present signified their intention of attending the Conference.

THE REGISTRATION PETITION SUPPORTED.

A resolution was then put to the meeting, and was unanimously passed, in favour of the Petition for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, to be presented to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.

Miss Mahaffy, in moving the resolution, said she could not understand how trained nurses could be indifferent to the question of State Registration. They must all know that women with a few months' training could, and did under present conditions, don nurses' uniform, and, palming themselves off as "trained," obtained the same fees as those who had spent three years in learning their profession. She herself, as Matron of a

private Nursing Home, had suffered at the hands of these persons, as there was no means of ascertaining the value of their certificates. She was convinced that nothing short of State Registration would cure this and other evils the nursing profession suffered from. The resolution was seconded by Miss Newman, Matron of the Frederick Street Nursing Institution.

The business part of the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Doctors for the interesting course of lectures they had so kindly given the members of the Association, and the thanks of the meeting were given to the able and energetic Hon. Secretary, Miss Workman, without whose help the Ulster Branch could hardly have been formed. The remainder of the evening was spent in amusements in which everyone heartily joined.

Since the annual meeting 23 new members have joined the Association. Through the medium of the Irish Nurses' Association, very favourable terms have been arranged for Irish nurses wishing to attend the Paris Conference. All those who wish to join the party starting from Belfast are asked to send in their names and addresses without delay to Miss Workman, Craigavad, co. Down, Ireland.

The Queen's Jubilee Institute.

Lady Mary Howard presided last week at a Conference of members of the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, and representatives of its affiliated associations in the Metropolitan area at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. A resolution was passed expressing the wish to co-operate more closely with hospitals in the nursing of out-patients. Discussion also took place on the advisability of establishing a loan fund for meeting emergency expenses, such as the furnishing of homes, and also the desirability of affiliation with county nursing associations. The steps being taken in the matter of insurance of nurses against the liabilities under the new Workmen's Compensation Act were reported.

The Council of the Scottish Branch, at their Quarterly Meeting, recorded their deep sense of the loss the Institute had sustained in the death of Miss Guthrie Wright, who, since its inception, held the position of Hon. Secretary of the Scottish Branch. Her services were invaluable whether in securing the necessary funds, in visiting a country district to obtain information which was needed, or in attending Council meetings in London in order to guide the Council aright on Scottish affairs.

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