

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses took place at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on Friday, May 24th. Miss M. Mollett, Vice-President, occupied the chair.

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting having been read by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and approved, Miss Mollett addressed the meeting as follows:

ADDRESS OF CHAIRMAN.

It is with great pride and a sense of great responsibility that for the first time I take the chair to-day at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. It is a pleasure to be able to record a steady, sober, increase in the number of our members, in the amount of work done, and in the interest taken in the movement by our profession as well as the general public. It is greater I am sure than we think. Perhaps we do not progress quite as rapidly as my honorable friend, our Hon. Secretary, could wish, but it is the slow growing oak that takes the deepest root and weathers the most storms. No proverb is more true than the old German one, "Ohne hast, ohne rast"—never pausing, always pressing forward, ceaselessly and with that sustained united effort that carries all before it.

And now I have a special word to say to the rank and file, for it is to them we must look to win the battle. We have good, capable leaders—none better, or more in earnest—but no general, however skilful, can gain the day if he has no army, or if that army does not fight. And we are the army, and we have got to fight, and not to leave it all to others. How are you to fight? Well, first of all, you have done the right and laudable thing in enlisting yourselves; then you must bring in other recruits; you must arouse the interest of those with whom you come in contact, lay and professional, in the movement. You must lay stress—great stress—on the Parliamentary side of the question, on the object for which this Society alone exists—the legalising of our Profession by and through the State.

For the whole object of our existence, as members of this Society, consists in furthering the passage of our Bill through the House. Nothing is more difficult than for a Member to carry a Bill through Parliament, or to convince legislators of its necessity without adequate pressure from the public, without adequate support from those whom the Bill is intended

to benefit. Therefore, I call upon all of you to put your shoulder to the wheel and help. Enlist the sympathies of those who have power and influence on our behalf, and, above all, of Members of Parliament with whom, ultimately, lies the power to grant our just desires. And here I should like to clear up one misconception, that is that people in—let us say—a quiet and unostentatious position cannot approach Parliamentary Members. That is a mistake. Your Member—the Member for your constituency—represents all its inhabitants, represents all its interests, yours included, and there is nothing in the world to prevent any one of you going to the Member in your district and calling his attention to the same. For there is nothing revolutionary, or widely visionary, in our Bill. It is a simple and sane attempt to reduce the present chaotic condition of our profession into order. From our Hon. Secretary you can obtain literature explaining our aims for distribution. Let me press this matter on you. Be a militant army, not one that never leaves its barracks and drill ground.

I have to mention to you with the deepest regret the loss the Society has sustained in the resignation of its most honoured President, Miss Louisa Stevenson. Miss Stevenson has represented all that is best and sanest and wisest in the movement for women's advance and improvement. You will, however, have an opportunity later on of expressing your appreciation of her services.

I trust that you will all now give us your closest attention, and the benefit of your advice, in dealing with the business that follows:

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick then presented the Annual Report and Financial Statement, the adoption of which was proposed by Miss Isla Stewart, seconded by Miss Macvitie, and carried.

The Report dealt with many matters which have already been reported in these columns, and as it will shortly be in the hands of the members we do not publish it at length. We shall, however, refer to it again next week, and publish that section which deals with State Registration in our Colonies and abroad.

The Financial Statement showed a balance in hand of £68 16s. 2d. It showed also that the Society had lived on its income for the year, and had husbanded the balance which it had at the end of last year.

THE RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT.

The next business was to receive the resignation of the President, and the Hon. Secretary read a letter from Miss Stevenson, in which she said that it was with much regret

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