

time the expenditure has exceeded the income by £30, thus reducing their little nest egg from £60 to £30. She earnestly appealed to the members for both personal and financial assistance, reminding them that the nurses were not in the enviable position of the Central Hospital Council for London, which could draw upon the contributions of the charitable entrusted to them for the care of sick poor, to finance its political campaign against justice being effected for that most devoted band of workers, the trained nurses.

Both Reports were adopted.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee was re-elected with the addition of Miss Helena Sherlock, as Delegate of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, and Miss A. W. Gill, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and Miss L. Ramsden, President of the Irish Nurses' Association, subject to their consent to act.

THE DIRECTORY OF NURSES BILL.

The Chairman then called upon the Hon. Secretary to read a large number of letters, strongly protesting against the Official Directory Bill. These had been sent from all over the country, and from Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

A welcome telegram was read from Belfast in which Lady Hermione Blackwood, the President of the Ulster Branch of the Irish Nurses' Association, reported that a unanimous Resolution against the Directory Bill had been passed by it on the previous day.

RESOLUTIONS.

The first Resolution was proposed by Miss H. L. Pearse, Superintendent of School Nurses under the L.C.C., as follows:—

That the members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, in annual meeting assembled, desire to express emphatic and determined opposition to the Bill "to provide for the establishment of an Official Directory of Nurses," introduced into the House of Lords by the Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T., for the following reasons:—

(a) It has been privately promoted by the Central Hospital Council for London without consultation with the class for whom it is proposed to legislate.

(b) It affords no guarantee of a nurse's efficiency to the public, as no minimum standard of professional knowledge is required.

(c) It makes no provision for a Central Governing Body upon which Trained Nurses are represented, and which would maintain standards of education and discipline as required in the Bill promoted by this Society, and now before the House of Commons.

For these reasons this Society, consisting of over 2,000 Matrons and Nurses, urgently

petitions the members of the House of Lords to reject the Official Directory of Nurses Bill on its second reading.

In proposing the Resolution, Miss Pearse detailed the dangers of the Bill, which have already been pointed out in this Journal, and said that if this Bill became law it would delay for some time the possibility of legislation on the lines desired by nurses. The Directory would not imply that the nurses whose names were inserted had attained any definite standard of training, and she did not think that self-respecting nurses would apply to have their names entered upon it. Further, the public would be deluded by it as they could not discriminate between certificates.

Mrs. Elliott, as a member of the public, strongly expressed the opinion that the term trained nurse should have a definite meaning.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that the Bill was an execrable one, and an insult not only to nurses but to women generally. In the past nurses had been very cheap, good, and amenable, and the purveyors of nursing feared that if nurses became a well organised and powerful body, they would not be so easy to manipulate. It was to be hoped that the Bill would be rejected by the House of Lords, but even if it obtained a second reading and went to the Commons with that prestige, all was not lost, because it was on the floor of the House of Commons that we must have our fight, and tear it to shreds. It was a reactionary measure to which the nurses of the United Kingdom declined to submit.

The Hon. Albinia Brodrick and others supported the Resolution, which was then carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION II.

The second Resolution was moved by Miss G. Knight, Matron of the General Hospital, Nottingham, as follows:

"This Meeting desires that a copy of the foregoing Resolution be sent to his Majesty's Ministers, and to every member of the House of Lords, and that the Lord President of the Council be asked to receive a Deputation to convey to him the Resolution.

The Resolution was seconded by Miss E. C. Sandford, late Lady Superintendent of the City Hospital, Edinburgh, who said that after the speeches which had been made it was unnecessary to say more. The case against the Directory Bill had never been better put. The Bill was the greatest insult the Nursing Profession had ever received, but it might do good in bringing the whole question of registration before the public.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

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