

RESOLUTION III.

The third Resolution was proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, as follows:

"That the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women Workers be requested to place the following Resolution on the Agenda of the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, to be held at Aberdeen in October next.

"That this National Council considers that it is desirable both in the interests of the professional status of trained nurses, and of the public who use their services, that provision should be made for their registration by the State; such registration to be under the supervision of a Central Board upon which nurses shall have direct and adequate representation."

Mrs. Fenwick said that she thought the present was the psychological moment to drive home the registration question wherever possible. The Legislation Committee of the N.U.W.W. had considered the question of Nurses' Registration, and approved the principle, and she hoped that when the National Council, representative of women of all classes and creeds, met in October at Aberdeen, that its support might be given to the principle of State Registration for Nurses on such a Resolution as she had proposed.

The Resolution was seconded by the Hon. Albinia Brodrick, who referred to the want of public spirit in the Nursing Profession. Of all the narrowing things a nurse's training was, she said, the most narrowing if her public duty was not impressed upon her.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C., then moved a vote of thanks to the President and the Hon. Secretary. Their work, she said, would not benefit themselves or their own generation, but future ones. She moved a hearty vote of thanks to them for their united good work. This was carried by acclamation, and the meeting terminated.

UNITED WE STAND.

As we go to press the fate of the Directory Bill hangs in the balance. Whatever the result of the debate in the Lords, the nurses of the United Kingdom can, through loyal co-operation, prevent it becoming law, and we feel convinced they will do so.

We all welcome the news that the British Medical Association have taken official action in opposition to the Bill. Well organised and powerful, the opinion of the Association must have great weight with the Legislature.

The Irish Matrons' Association.

THE EXTRA PAYMENT OF PRIVATE NURSES FOR WORKING OVERTIME.

At the usual monthly meeting of the Irish Matrons' Association, on Saturday last, a paper on "The Extra Payment of Private Nurses for Working Overtime" was read by Miss Margaret McNeill, Superintendent of Nurses, Children's Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin, and President of the Irish Matrons' Association. Miss Lamont, Q.V.J.I., took the chair during the reading of the paper, a few extracts from which may be of interest to the readers of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

"The comparatively recent visit of the Secretary of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, to Dublin, is the more immediate cause which has led me to bring before the Matrons' Association, with the desire to have their views as to its practicability, a suggestion which might point to a practical aid towards enabling nurses in their country to set aside the premiums for the purchase of a pension. You may have noticed that it was found necessary to state that the working years of a nurse's life are, in comparison with other workers, very few, while on the other hand her actual life is not a short one. This raises a two-fold difficulty in the way of making herself-supporting in her old age—a short-earning period and a long non-earning period. It naturally follows that in calculating the price of pensions for a class having these characteristics, the price must be proportionately high, and there is a likelihood of no purchase being made by persons whose incomes are small.

"The earnings of nurses in Ireland, depending as they do upon fees that are much smaller than fees in England, are considerably less than can be obtained in England, and while £10 or £15 per annum more or less does not matter when one's income is some hundreds of pounds, it makes a very telling difference when salaries are £18, £20, or £25, rates I understand quite usual in Ireland. If a woman has to take a holiday change, which to a nurse is a real necessity, has to keep herself adequately provided with footwear, underclothing, etc., and an occasional outing when off duty, little is left to buy an independence for her after-work days. I know there are higher salaries paid than these I give, but it is to the woman with the small salary and no particular fitness for any special post that the question of penniless old age is most grave. Another view not to be omitted is that a nurse only begins to earn money some years after persons in similar occupations. Again I refer chiefly to

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)