

appeal to nurses through his anti-registration journal."

Miss Huxley then rose to put the first resolution, and said a few words beforehand, that at first she was inclined to fall in with the pamphlet's proposals, and get votes filled in, but on talking the matter over, she saw the true inwardness of things, and now had the honour of proposing the following resolution as very moderately expressing her feelings towards this piece of dubious policy:—

RESOLUTIONS.

"That the Irish Nurses' Association, having carefully considered the terms of the plebiscite on Registration, proposed by the Editor of the *Nursing Mirror*, a newspaper opposed to State Registration, declines to take any part in it, as the Association cannot approve of votes being collected by an irresponsible authority and procured by the offer of money prizes. It is also objectionable that the votes of nurses engaged in hospitals opposed to Registration should be taken by those under whom the nurses are serving, as votes so taken cannot be regarded as a free or independent expression of opinion."

This was seconded by Miss MacArdle in a few words warmly approving, and supported also by Miss Pate, Matron, Adelaide Hospital, and by Miss Violet Roberts (representing Private Nurses). Miss Roberts strongly condemned this measure as a most undignified method of dealing with a Parliamentary question, which had already passed the House of Lords, and she advised her fellow nurses present to have nothing whatever to do with it.

The resolution was then put, and carried without a single dissentient voice.

Miss Wills, Q.V.J.I., moved the second resolution:—

"That copies of the foregoing resolution, with a report of this meeting, be forwarded to the Editor of the *Nursing Mirror*, to the members of both Houses of Parliament, who have so generously aided Irish nurses upon the Registration question, and to the Press."

Miss Wills said she considered that the whole thing was an insult to the Nursing Profession, and she hoped that nurses would warn their sisters in the country against it.

Miss Carson-Rae seconded the resolution, with cordial approval. It was supported by Miss Butler, Portobello Hospital.

Mrs. Kildare Treacy, in supporting the resolution, reported a gross case of attempted coercion in a London hospital, where a nurse had voted for registration.

This resolution was also passed, by acclamation, and the meeting ended.

We congratulate the Irish Nurses' Association on their prompt action in exposing the whole discreditable methods employed by the quack nursing press to whip up a fictitious anti-registration vote.

Legal Matters.

THE HIGHGATE MURDER CHARGE.

Before the Recorder, Sir Forrest Fulton, at the Central Criminal Court on February 3rd, Violet Edith Cross pleaded guilty to unlawfully concealing the birth of her male child at Highgate on December 30th. She was sent for trial charged with the murder of the child, it having been found dead in her box stabbed through the left lung with a pair of scissors, but the Grand Jury ignored the bill. Her counsel said that she had been deceived by a man who promised marriage, but who had gone to Mexico. The Recorder said that as the prisoner had been in custody for three weeks awaiting trial on a charge of murder he did not think it necessary to punish her further. He passed the nominal sentence of two days' imprisonment, which involved her immediate discharge.

A CHARGE OF WILFUL NEGLECT.

At the Essex Assizes, at Chelmsford, on February 4th, Ethel Maud Mary Wills, described as a nurse, was indicted for wilfully neglecting certain children in her custody in a manner likely to cause them unnecessary suffering and injury to their health.

For the prosecution it was stated that the prisoner was of independent means, and though not a professional nurse, had started a home in Ramsgate in February of last year, where she remained till September. The home was registered. On September 7th she moved to Green's Farm, near Ongar, bringing 30 children with her. She gave no notice to the Essex authorities. On October 8th Dr. Fowler called at the farm, which was not fit for the purpose of keeping children. There was no water within half a mile, and no drainage. Dr. Fowler reported to the authorities, and notice was given to the accused to remove the children or abate the nuisance caused by the state of the premises within ten days. She advertised for people to take the children, and some were taken. On October 27th the Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children called and found eleven children very ill, and that seven had died in a month. In the case of one child, who afterwards died, an arm had been broken at some time, and apparently no steps had been taken to set it. Another child was suffering from a horrible eruption, and two children, when handed over to another woman, had sores on their heads caused by vermin.

"Sister Catherine" Drage testified to the kindness of the accused, who made no profit at all.

Nurse Susan Martin, who fetched one of the children away, said the child appeared very ill, the arm was discharging matter; there was a bandage upon it, but apparently no dressing. Another witness testified to the verminous condition of children whom she received.

For the defence it was pleaded that there was no wilful neglect.

The learned Judge held that the case was not one of baby farming, one accused made no profit, but spent her money on the children. She had to leave Ramsgate suddenly, and was to have a larger

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