

settled. Many of such claims in the future would be capable of easy adjustment if the work of the hospitals was well done. Nurses were very directly connected with the efficiency of all parts of the institution. It was a narrow view which would confine them to purely technical duties.

MISS ISLA STEWART.

Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and a member of the Army Nursing Board, next addressed the meeting, and said she had very much pleasure in doing so as a nurse. She explained the organisation of the new Service, and said that she wished to emphasise the professional aspect, which was somehow overlooked sometimes by the public, and even by nurses. Women would tell you that the worst part of their lot in war was to stay at home, however willing they might be to render assistance. But nurses were a very necessary section of the community in time of war. The Territorial Nurses would have to fight disease and death, and this position was given to them not because they were willing, but because they were experts.

Miss Florence Nightingale, whose name must ever be remembered in connection with Army Nursing, was both willing and clever, but, if she had not been trained as a nurse at the time of the Crimean War, and therefore able to place expert knowledge at the service of her country, very little would have been heard of her.

Even to-day it was sometimes said that nurses were born, not made, and that technical skill was secondary to personal character. Personal character was very important. Nurses accepted for the Territorial Service would be required to produce evidence of it, but the country called for the services of nurses because, in addition to personal character and willingness, they could produce certificates of three years' training in nursing. It was as fully qualified professional women that they responded as willing and able to help.

A vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, proposed by Colonel Hyslop, and seconded by Captain Purcell, was heartily carried, and was accepted by the Lord Mayor on behalf of his wife, who, he said, deserved it, a sentiment which was warmly applauded.

He extended a cordial invitation to all those present to remain to tea, an invitation which was greatly appreciated.

The Committee and speakers were entertained in his parlour by the Lord Mayor, who expressed much interest in the Territorial Scheme, and also in the coming International Congress of Nurses.

## The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held at the Offices, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Friday, the 12th inst., Miss Isla Stewart in the chair.

The meeting was called to discuss the question of Registration in Scotland, and to consider a resolution. The Hon. Secretary reported that a new Committee had been formed in Scotland, upon the initiative of Dr. Macintosh, Medical Superintendent of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, the names of which had not been made public (other than the Scottish Registration Committee, sitting in Edinburgh, with which they had worked for some years), which had issued a report recommending registration of nurses by a separate Act of Parliament for Scotland.

The Bill drafted by the Society for State Registration, which, considerably amended by the Government, passed the House of Lords last Session, had been taken by the new Scottish Committee and apparently adopted as its own, without any reference to this Society, which had paid for it. The Bill, as proposed for Scotland, had been subjected to considerable modification and elimination, which deprived the nursing profession of three most valuable privileges: (1) Direct representation for Matron representatives on the Registration Council, making them with the Medical Superintendents independent of professional opinion. (2) The Central Examination, the only safe and effective portal to the Nurses' Register. (3) The elimination of an examination fee.

The Scottish Bill proposed to register Fever specialists, and to conduct the organisation of the nursing profession by a Council of unpaid and therefore irresponsible persons, thus introducing an element of patronage into the conduct of business, which was most undesirable, and contrary to the sound financial system adopted by men in professional affairs. The result would be to place registered nurses in an invidious and dependent position. Work worth having should be paid for, and nurses could not do better than follow the example of the General Medical Council in this particular, and maintain their professional dignity.

The discussion was thoroughly to the point, and the general consensus of opinion expressed by those present was that a separate Bill for Scotland on the lines proposed would inevitably prove injurious to the standards of Scot-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)