

wood announced with great satisfaction. She appealed to the Chairman as to whether a woman with that training was entirely untrained, and said, with considerable heat, that an ungenerous attack had been made upon Cottage Nursing, a statement received with cries of "No, no," and some laughter. "It is God's work," she exclaimed, "and you have no business to laugh at it; it is Christian work, and you have no right to deride it. You have no right to deride work you would not touch with your little finger. If you don't believe what I, the Director, say, several branches of the Cottage Benefit Nursing Association are represented here. I don't stand here to be slapped in the face."

The Chairman said that he, for one, had not observed any note of derision. He would like to emphasise that point.

Certainly there was no derision expressed; but the large majority of those present evidently did not sympathise with the arrogant demand that women with no hospital training, and only 8 per cent. of whom are certified midwives, should be regarded as trained nurses. No one wishes to deny them a place as useful attendants, or as an estimable class of workers, but to insist on their recognition as trained nurses is to afford the best possible argument for the definition of an adequate standard, and all nurses—including Cottage Nurses—are indebted to Lady Helen Munro Ferguson for her clear and courageous statement of the case.

Mrs. BEALE, Birmingham, spoke of the great amount of work done by Queen's Superintendents and Nurses at the risk of overstrain. She also advocated a little more independence of action on the part of local associations, and rather less red tape on behalf of the central office of the Q.V.J.I. At the same time, in Birmingham they quite appreciated the benefits of affiliation.

Other speakers in this Session were Mr. L. H. M. Dick, Mrs. Charles Hobhouse, Miss Amy Hughes, and Miss C. J. Wood.

#### SECTION VI.

The Bishop of Liverpool presided over the sixth, and last, Session of the Conference.

Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE presented an admirable paper on "Sick Room Helpers," and described an experiment now being tried by the Liverpool Women's Industrial Council. These helpers have had some practical experience of sickness and have taken a course of lessons in invalid cookery. The "trade card" announces that "they are competent to attend upon cases of illness too slight to require a trained nurse, and in more serious cases to wait upon and assist the trained nurse. Employers who put them in charge of more serious cases do so, at their own risk." Most of these helpers were in good class service before marriage.

Mr. W. R. COONEY (Commissioner of Education, Ireland), spoke of the work of Queen's Nurses in Ireland.

Miss HITCHCOCK, Member of the Examining Board for State Registration of Nurses in New York, under the Regents of the University, and Superintendent of the Nursing Staff at the Nurses'

Settlement, New York, under Miss Wald, said that she had missed one note in the gathering—the work of the Social Service Nurse; the preventive work done by such nurses was a strong bit of work.

Mr. J. G. POLLITT (Blackburn) asked those responsible for the employment of nurses to consider if they were paying them adequately. It was no use to say associations were poor and waiting for more funds; that did not excuse the exploiting of the nurse by philanthropists who paid pocket money wages. When they had taken the nurse's services, and, her work done, she retired into obscurity, what had she to look forward to? If she had been frugal in a high degree, and saved through her working life, she might receive 8s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a week from the Royal National Pension Fund. There was a retired District Nurse in Liverpool living on that amount, out of which she paid 2s. a week for a furnished room, and her friends still at work helped her with clothes. Was that all that a woman who had worked hard as a nurse deserved? All associations had money. Let them pay adequate salaries, and, if necessary, employ fewer nurses. He knew ladies on Committees, having a ménage costing £1,000 a year, who could not for the life of them understand what a nurse did with £40 a year. Some of the things a nurse had to pay for were a month's holiday, the thousand and one expenses which came on every one daily, and dress other than uniform.

#### VOTE OF THANKS.

The next speaker was the Hon. Mrs. EGERTON, who, in the name of the delegates, tendered a hearty vote of thanks to the promoters of the Congress for the hospitality they had received, both public and private; one and all were overburdened with gratitude.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE KING.

Mr. ARCHIBALD WILLIAMSON, M.P., Chairman of the Congress Committee, who responded, told the Conference that Princess Louise had that morning received a letter from the King, and His Majesty was pleased to say that he highly approved of Her Royal Highness coming to Liverpool for that Congress, and that he hoped the Congress would result in very much good to the cause of District Nursing.

#### VALEDICTORY.

The BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL, in his concluding words, reminded his hearers of the close connection between soul and body. Had not some of them known cases where the mind or the spirit had had more to do with the disease than the body, when all medical help seemed vain, but when some simple word of faith and hope had accomplished what medicine could never do? As a humble worker, who looked with admiration on every nurse, and was inclined whenever he saw one to take off his hat to her for her noble work, for the blessing she was conferring on humanity, might he entreat them to remember that patients had souls as well as bodies? He trusted the time was coming when their unhappy divisions would no longer muzzle them, and they would be able to speak wise and earnest words of faith and hope to the souls of their patients.

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