

the Caesars, moves. That object must be dear to every soldier who makes up the army, important enough to make every soldier ready to risk his life, and to fight steadily on till the last obstacle is overcome, and the army marches into the beleaguered city.

There must also be cohesion in the ranks, just as even a slight crack damages and deteriorates the value of a valuable china bowl, and in spite of all the care in the world eventually widens till the bowl is in two, so discontent in the army spreads and spreads till at last, dispirited and forlorn, it retires discomfited from the field.

To attain our object then, our solid army needs the power of moving forward with a definite aim and towards a definite object. The aim of the army must be sufficiently important to nerve every arm and steel every heart. The cohesion of the army must be such that there is no dissatisfaction in the ranks.

I have left what is really the most important point till the last. No army ever went out conquering and to conquer, without a leader. Would the French have overrun Europe without Napoleon? Would Waterloo have been Waterloo without Wellington? No. We march under the banner of a leader as powerful, as indomitable, as trusted, and as skilful as any of those. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick is a born fighter. She has the true English quality of never knowing when she is beaten. Step by step during all the past twenty-two years she has led the van, while a great army has gathered under the banner she has upheld, and now I verily believe that Registration is not far off, and that what we have to do now is what we have done in the past—push firmly, continuously, solidly, and loyally towards victory, letting all minor differences of opinion as to details and side issues stand aside till the great object has been obtained, and we have placed our profession in its proper position as one of the two greatest professions for women in this world.

THE ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS.

Miss Stewart then called upon the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, to present the Annual Report and Audited Accounts. The Report showed that 383 new members had joined the Society during the past year, making a total of 2,716 since the Society was formed in 1902. The Report summarised the legislation proposed and enacted during the past twelve months, the public meetings which have been held, and the present position of the registration movement, concluding with a report of the recent Deputation to the Prime Minister in support of the Nurses' Registration Bill.

Mrs. Fenwick pointed out that it was unfortunate that trained nursing should be considered a woman's question. It was also a human question, and a question of social reform. Skilled nursing was a national asset, and nurses were a necessity to the efficiency

of the majority of the Government Departments.

The Balance Sheet showed that individual nurses had given nearly £100, in addition to their subscriptions to promote the movement. There was a balance in hand on April 30th of £30 1s. 2d., but the Honorary Secretary pointed out that this was not so satisfactory as it appeared, as considerable expenses had been incurred during the past month.

The large proportion of the expense of the Registration movement had fallen upon nurses, though the reform was equally for the public benefit. Nurses were not able to pass resolutions in hospital committee rooms, and vote charitable funds in support of their propaganda, though the Central Hospital Council for London had taken power to do so. If the members of the Central Hospital Council felt so strongly that registration was undesirable let them pay for their propaganda as the nurses were doing, and not utilise charitable funds for their purpose.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee were then re-elected with the addition of Miss Morgan, Hon. Secretary of the Fever Nurses' Association, and a delegate of the Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League.

RESOLUTIONS.

A number of resolutions, all of which were carried unanimously, were then put to the meeting.

I.

The first resolution was as follows:—

"That the thanks of this Society of Trained Nurses be sent to the Prime Minister for receiving a Deputation in support of the Nurses' Registration Bill. This Society earnestly hopes that the Government will consent to give facilities for the consideration of the Bill by Parliament this Session."

In proposing this resolution from the chair, Miss Stewart said that the Prime Minister gave the deputation a courteous hearing, and the Society had reason to be grateful to him.

II.

The next resolution was proposed by Miss L. Warriner, Member of the Registered Nurses' Society, and seconded by Miss L. A. Morgan, Hon. Secretary, Fever Nurses' Association:—

"That the thanks of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses be sent to the Members of Parliament, eminent medical men, and ladies representing important Women's Societies, for their kindness in taking part in the Deputation to the Prime Minister in support of the Registration of Trained Nurses."

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in supporting the resolution, said that the thanks of the Society should certainly be tendered to the eminent members of the deputation. A few years ago

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)