

Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland.

The Annual Meeting of the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland was held in Glasgow on Wednesday, March 2nd. To suit the convenience of the East of Scotland members, a corresponding meeting was held in Edinburgh on the following day. The programme was the same at both meetings, with some variation in the speakers.

Lord Inverclyde, the President of the Association, who presided at both meetings, said at that held in Edinburgh, on Thursday, March 3rd: "On the 27th of February, 1909, you did me the honour to allow me to preside over a very large and representative meeting, held in Glasgow, which was probably the largest and most representative gathering of nurses ever held in Scotland; that is how it impressed me.

At this meeting it was decided to form an Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, and the objects of the Association were:—(1) To promote a system of registration of nurses. (2) To protect the interests of Scottish nurses, and to secure for Scotland such treatment as would enable it to obtain the fullest possible benefit from registration.

Of this Association you were good enough to elect me President, and a number of representative people as vice-presidents. The Executive Committee contains the Matrons of practically all the principal hospitals in Scotland, also the Superintendents, and representatives from their senior staff and Board of Management.

You may remember that before the meeting held on 27th February, 1909, a pamphlet was circulated giving a brief resumé on the whole question of the registration of nurses as it affected Scottish nurses, stating the reasons why the English Bills were not acceptable to Scottish nurses, and also giving the draft of a Bill embodying the main points for which the nurses in Scotland were contending.

In course of time I put myself in communication with Lord Ampthill, who had previously been successful in passing a Bill through the House of Lords, which was not acceptable to us.

Lord Ampthill welcomed my suggestions that the representatives of this Association should join in conference with other Associations to endeavour to arrive at a mutual under-

standing, and, if possible, to agree on the promotion of a Bill which should meet with the approval of the various interests concerned.

These conferences have been held, and I think I may say with satisfactory results, misunderstandings have been cleared up and concessions have been made by all parties with the result I think I may say, the draft of a Bill has been agreed on which we who have the interests of this Association at heart can consider almost entirely satisfactory, and which carries out the objects I have already mentioned.

I want to take this opportunity of publicly stating how much we are indebted to Lord Ampthill who presided at the conferences, for the fair and impartial manner he did his duty; and how much we owe to him for a general agreement being arrived at.

As I have said, the draft of the Bill has now been practically agreed on, but our difficulties are by no means over: we have got to get it passed through the two Houses of Parliament before it becomes law. With the House of Lords, I believe, there will not be much difficulty, but it is needless for me to enlarge on the present state of the House of Commons, the present usefulness of that body is very doubtful indeed. I am not one of those who clamour for legislation, quite the reverse; but there are useful pieces of legislation which I am afraid at the present time will have to wait until members of the House of Commons are not so full of the necessity of the preservation of their numerous parties, and instead will give thought to what is for the good and needs of their country. The Bill, however, was on Tuesday last introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Munro Ferguson, and we can only trust that an opportunity will arise for its making progress."

Dr. D. J. Macintosh, M.V.O., the Hon. Secretary, gave in detail the history of the formation of the Association, and the various steps by which the above-mentioned satisfactory result had been reached. The Association had now, he said, on its list 1,785 nurse members. The medical men who had interested themselves in the question were not included in these figures. It had all along been recognised that this was a nurses' association. In reference to the Registration fee, Dr. Macintosh stated the Association was of opinion that, instead of five guineas, the maximum charge should be three guineas.

Dr. Allan Jamieson (President of the Royal College of Physicians), congratulating the Association on the progress made, moved, and Dr. Playfair (Vice-President of the Royal Col-

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