

resolution the work of doing their utmost to make the mortuaries of our hospitals what they really should be—places to which one can go with the friends of the dead with content, places marked with signs of honour, marked with the sign of our redemption, and with words of consolation and hope upon their walls. That would be an excellent, an admirable, fruit of our meeting this afternoon—if something could be done in some hospital where there is yet a mortuary which is not what it should be.

The substance of the very little I have said to-day is gathered up in two little lines of that great poetess, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, which I should like to leave with you, as they sum up what I wish to put before you in my plea for reverent pity in dealing with the dead. The man, most man, with tenderest human hands, Works best for man, as God in Nazareth.

### The Territorial Force Nursing Service.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Territorial Force Nursing Service of the City and County of London, held at the Mansion House on April 8th, the following resolution, proposed by Lady Wyatt-Truscott, and seconded by Lady Dimsdale, in the most feeling manner, was unanimously adopted:—

“That the members of this Committee desire to express their deep regret at the loss sustained by this Committee and by No. 1 General Hospital in the death of Miss Isla Stewart.”

It was decided that copies of the resolution signed by Lady Wyatt Truscott, late Lady Mayoress, Lady Dimsdale, Vice-President, and the Lady Mayoress, Lady Knill, Chairman, should be forwarded to Lord Sandhurst, Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and to Miss Janet Stewart.

Lady Mackinnon, who throughout has shown the kindest interest in all that concerns the nursing staff, proposed that some steps should be taken to bring the Committee into personal touch with the members of the four Territorial Hospitals for London, and also to bring the members of those Hospitals into touch with each other. The proposal was warmly supported, and it was announced that Lady Truscott, with her usual generosity would be pleased to hold a Reunion of the members of the Committees, and the nursing staff, at her house, and it was agreed that once in six months such Reunions should be held, thus furthering the good feeling and *esprit de corps* of the Service.

### Progress of State Registration.

The news that Mr. Burns, the President of the Local Government Board, has removed his block from the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Commons will be received with much satisfaction by the very large majority of Matrons and nurses working under the Poor Law, and we congratulate those Matrons who last week had the good sense to promptly place their expert views on this professional question before him. The day is long since past when women can afford to stand aside when the conditions of their work and consequently their lives, are under discussion—indeed, it is their duty to form conditions which they can conscientiously accept. We sincerely hope the President of the Local Government Board will not be content with not opposing, but that he will in the future actively help trained nurses to attain their justifiable ambition—the organisation of their profession, by State Authority, for the protection of the sick. Let Mr. Burns realise that nurses are working women—and very hard-working women, too—engaged in combatting disease by every means in their power, and helping thus to build up the health of the people, and he should be in the front rank of active friends.

It is only quite recently that entirely through the initiative and determination of Mr. Burns three thoroughly qualified certificated nurses have been appointed Inspectors of Poor Law Infirmaries and Schools—the most sensible bit of Poor Law reform effected for some time.

The following Matrons unavoidably signed the registration resolution too late for presentation last week:—Miss L. A. Houston, Holborn Infirmary; Miss E. S. Owen, Stapleton Infirmary, Bristol; and Miss M. C. Treharne-Jones, Newport Infirmary, Mon. These additional signatures have been forwarded by Miss Barton to the President of the Local Government Board.

It will be seen that as we meet with opposition from employers at every turn, we cannot afford to rest on our oars for a moment. Our keen adversaries, Mr. Holland and Miss Lückes, of the London Hospital, are sparing neither time nor energy in whipping up opposition to the Nurses' Bill. This should spur us on with all the more determination, as the nurses working under anti-registration authority are just those who for economic reasons cannot help themselves, and require State protection the more.

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