

could not frame rules easy to be understood. Moreover, eight-tenths of the recommendations of the Majority Report of the Royal Commission could be brought into force without any legislation, by a stroke of the pen of the President of the Local Government Board.

The following resolution, proposed by Miss Joseph, and seconded by Miss M. D. Brinton, was then put to the meeting and carried:

"That this meeting is of opinion that the rules existing in unseparated Poor Law infirmaries in regard to the bathing of patients need immediate revision by the Local Government Board."

FEEBLE-MINDED UNMARRIED MOTHERS IN WORKHOUSES.

The third paper on Friday afternoon was read by Miss P. Douglas Townsend on the above subject, who said that feeble-mindedness was a term of wide significance, but she spoke of it as applied to persons who cannot be certified as insane or idiotic, but who cannot take an independent position in the world without danger to themselves and the community. She gave a concrete example of the good work done for unmarried women of this class, and their children, at a home in North Finchley, where Guardians pay 10s. per mother and 5s. per child maintained.

THE HISTORY OF NURSING.

In the evening Miss E. L. C. Eden gave her most interesting lecture on the History of Nursing, illustrated by lantern slides, showing the development of nursing from 200 B.C. and onwards, to a crowded audience.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30th.

Dr. R. Murray Leslie presided at the afternoon session on Saturday, when the first paper was read by Miss Annie Manley, a Founder of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses.

MASSAGE.

Miss Manley sketched the history of the foundation of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses in connection with the Midwives' Institute, and the growth of its work from six candidates examined in 1894 to 250 at the last examination. It now holds an examination annually in Dublin, simultaneously with the one held in London, for which Miss Shuter acts as the Hon. Secretary. It gives a special certificate in connection with Swedish remedial agents, and its first examination in remedial exercises was held recently, by permission, at Guy's Hospital. It also, at the request of the War Office, examines orderlies trained in massage, and 45 orderlies have received its certificate. At a time when women were chafing at their disabilities it was interesting to find a society composed entirely of women acting, by request, as an examining body for men.

The Chairman inquired what length of training the Society required before examination, and was informed that it was 4-6 months. He pointed out that at the Central Institute, Stockholm, two full years' arduous training was essential, and doctors hardly thought the usual three months' training of an English girl equal to two years in the case of a Swedish one. That was why the doctors so often employed Swedish masseuses. He

knew he was speaking for a large number of his profession when he expressed the opinion that three months was not sufficient time in which to acquire this important branch. Miss Lucy Robinson thought one point might be brought to the notice of the medical profession. Members of the I.S.T.M. pledged themselves only to work under medical practitioners.

The Chairman said it was an important point, but it was not the case with hundreds of people calling themselves masseuses.

MATERNITY CLUBS.

Miss Helen G. Klaasen read an interesting paper on Provident Maternity Clubs, showing the benefit of making early provision.

CRÈCHES.

In the absence of Muriel Viscountess Helmsley, Miss Fry, of Bristol, spoke on crèches rather from an adverse point of view.

Miss Margaret Rodgers, speaking as an employer of labour, said she always gave women leave of absence to nurse their babies.

TERRITORIAL NURSING.

The last paper of the afternoon was presented by Miss Barton on Territorial Nursing. Miss Barton described the scheme in detail, and Miss Sidney Browne spoke of the wonderful response to the appeal for nurses.

THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

There was a crowded attendance at the last Session of the Conference on Saturday night, devoted to the consideration of the State Registration of Nurses. Mr. John Langton, F.R.C.S., presided, and Miss Macdonald, Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, read a paper written by Miss Annie J. Hobbs, in which the case for Registration was presented on the lines of the Bill drafted by the Central Registration Committee. If there was nothing new in the paper it was because, as the Hon. Sydney Holland, who opened the discussion, truly said, there is nothing new to be said on either side. The arguments on both sides are "as old as the mountains."

Mr. Holland explained that he had not intended to take so prominent a part in the proceedings, but he had written for a ticket of admission, and had been announced as the opener of the discussion. He asserted that Registration would do nothing to remedy the evils which he admitted existed in the nursing world. All it would do would be to prevent an unregistered nurse from calling herself registered. He further stated that not a single "London" nurse would ever register.

He criticised the constitution of the General Council for the Registration of Nurses in the 1908 Bill, which we all know was considerably altered during the passage of the Bill through the House of Lords, and has since been superseded by another.

Referring to the conditions alleged by Miss Hobbs to exist in many so-called nursing homes, Mr. Holland asked whether nurses did not work under doctors in these homes? Would the doctors—though certainly they were careless in the selection of nurses—be content with the nurses described?

The speaker said the health and physical capacity

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