

Fever Nurses' Association.

ANNUAL MEETING.

By the courtesy of the Managers of the Metropolitan Asylums' Board the Annual Meeting of the Fever Nurses' Association was held in the Board Room at the Offices of the Board on the Victoria Embankment, on Monday afternoon last. Dr. E. W. Goodall, President of the Association, was in the chair, and was supported by Dr. Hoord Caiger, Hon. Treasurer; and Dr. Biernacki and Miss L. A. Morgan, Hon. Secretaries.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

In opening the proceedings of the day Dr. Goodall tendered his thanks to the Council, in whom the election of officers is vested, and, through the Council, to the general body of members to whom the Council is responsible, for re-electing him to the presidential chair for another term of office.

EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

The President said that since the first annual meeting, held just a year ago in that chamber, more than one event of importance to the Association had taken place. Perhaps the most noteworthy was the agreement of various societies in connection with the question of State Registration of Nurses, whereby they had framed one Bill in the place of the three which were being promoted by as many groups. The Fever Nurses' Association was represented at the Conference held early in the present year to discuss the drafting of a Bill, when the representatives of the Council of the Association were listened to most courteously. In the Bill then drafted the delegates of the Association succeeded in getting clauses inserted which afford a distinct recognition of the value of the training obtained in a fever hospital. "Your representatives," said Dr. Goodall, "were much gratified at the sympathetic reception, they received at the hands of the delegates from the other societies, to all of whom our Association owes a debt of gratitude. But our heaviest debt is owed to one to whom it cannot be repaid—the late Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The Council's report states that 'she took a deep interest in all matters connected with fever nursing.' That was chiefly because she had once been Matron first of a small-pox, and then of a fever hospital, and therefore possessed a personal and intimate acquaintance with the subject, and some of us are proud to remember that these hospitals were institutions, and she was an officer, in the same Service in which we are working to-day."

After referring to the constitution of the permanent Central Registration Committee, under the chairmanship of Lord Amptill, Dr. Goodall said that as the Fever Nurses' Association had obtained recognition in the Bill it was bound to take an interest in its welfare. He proceeded to say that the Bill, in charge of Mr. Munro Ferguson, had to encounter not only ill luck in the ballot, but also ill will. "We have recently heard," he continued, "and shall hear again in the near future, a great deal of talk about the reform of the House of Lords. I wish we could hear as much about the

reform of the House of Commons, more especially in respect of its methods of procedure. It appears to the ordinary onlooker nothing short of scandalous that a single member should have the power of stopping the progress of a Bill of this kind by the simple but effective process known as 'blocking.' Months of labour, hundreds of pounds of money, may be wasted in a moment without warning, by a single member of the House, who, as often as not, is quite ignorant of the merits of the Measure he has brought to the ground. He may have acted merely to oblige a friend. To the outsider the action appears to be the height of cowardice on the part of the instigator of it, for it is inconceivable that anyone who was not afraid of open discussion should act in so underhand a manner. But discussion in that place is the last thing desired by opponents of this kind."

Dr. Goodall said he had been much surprised to hear recently that an opinion had been expressed in an influential quarter that the passage of this Bill into law would lead to a deterioration in the staffs of fever hospitals, because it leaves without definition the value of a training in fever nursing. There were at least five ways in which a Nurses' Registration Bill could deal with fever training. (1) It could ignore it, which would be a disastrous calamity. (2) It could go to the other extreme, and admit nurses whose sole qualification was a fever training to the general register, which would be grossly unjust to general trained nurses, and fraught with harm to the public. (3) A separate Register of fever nurses could be instituted, comparable to the Mental Nurses' Register, set up by the present Bill—a proposition embodied in the Bill for the Registration of Nurses in Scotland introduced last year, but the Fever Nurses' Association did not favour the institution of such a Register, because it held it to be, on the whole, detrimental to the public interest. (4) Fever nursing could be treated as worthy of recognition as an addition to general training—the attitude of the present Bill towards it. Dr. Goodall said he had no hesitation in asserting that the inscription of the proposed Bill upon the Statute Book would improve the nursing in fever hospitals. (5) A Registration Bill could provide a place for fever training by means of reciprocal training—i.e., the recognition of the special fever course as part of general training, which was not discountenanced in the Registration Bill. Only two of these methods, that of reciprocal training, and the recognition of the additional qualification, were worthy of consideration, and the latter was at the present time the more feasible.

THE ASSOCIATION'S SCHEME OF TRAINING.

Dr. Goodall then referred to the gratification of the Council that the Association's scheme of training had been adopted by so many important authorities throughout the kingdom which have large fever hospitals under their control. He looked forward to beneficial results from the adoption of the scheme.

He then specially addressed the junior nurse members of the Association, and pointed out the importance of their work in hospitals which were

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