

ishment of a pension fund on an effective scale, will have grave doubts as to the success of this project on any lines which Miss Nightingale would have approved." Then they suggested that "the Grosvenor House meeting would be more likely to carry the purpose of its promoters to a successful issue if they would, in the first instance, proceed only to appoint an impartial, representative committee to consider and report on the best method of commemorating the life and work of Miss Nightingale. The proposal then put before them might be ultimately adopted, but only after full consideration and comparison with other means of effecting the object in view."

Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, K.C.B., G.C.V.O., who presided, explained that the object of convening the meeting was to endeavour to formulate a practical and appropriate scheme by which to honour the memory of Florence Nightingale, one of the greatest women ever born to the Empire. To this end it was suggested that an impartial committee should be formed to consider and report upon the various schemes proposed. The Committee for the Imperial Scheme thus practically adopted the suggestion contained in the foregoing letter.

The first speaker was Mrs. Josceline Bagot, R.R.C., who most eloquently explained why Miss Nightingale was worthy of a great national tribute. She demonstrated how her genius showed itself in everything she undertook, whether in organisation of the Crimean hospitals, where, solely thanks to her strength of character, trouble and demoralisation were averted, or in her subsequent work for nursing education, by which the whole system of nurse training had been raised.

What nurse was there, she asked, in the whole Empire, who did not admit that Miss Nightingale was her ideal? It was the thought of her which inspired nurses in the terrible typhoid epidemic during the South African war, and many a little nurse drew her last breath still smiling because of Florence Nightingale. You may say, concluded the speaker, that she has immortalised herself, but don't you want to have a hand in commemorating, in a permanent and humane way, one who was first of all a woman, and after that the greatest genius who adorned the Victorian Era?

Major Mark Sykes, in supporting the memorial, said that in the Crimea Miss Nightingale saved thousands of lives. In the last fifty years she had saved millions through the better system of nursing which she inaugurated.

Mrs. Dacre Craven, who said that she was the oldest living Nightingale probationer in the world, related that the late Empress Frederick of Germany had once said to her that Miss Nightingale did not belong to England but to the world. She quoted extracts from letters she had received from her great leader showing her keen interest in all that concerned nursing, and the maxim sent by her in a time of discouragement that "degeneration, not disappointment, is to be feared."

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was then moved from the chair by Lord Charles Beresford:—

"That an impartial representative committee should be formed to consider and report on the various projects recently put forward to perpetuate the memory of the late Miss Florence Nightingale,

and that the wishes of the nation should be ascertained by inviting deputies from public bodies to attend."

In moving the resolution he paid a warm tribute to the work of the Sisters of the Royal Naval Nursing Service, who had saved many lives by their unselfish, unwearying attention. There were heroes and heroines of the medical and nursing professions of whom very little was heard. He owed his own life to the skill and care of trained nurses, and they had his sincere gratitude.

The Resolution was seconded by Sir William Treloar, who said that all would agree that the memorial should be an Imperial one, that it should be something for the benefit of nurses who were in want in their old age appealed to him more than any other object, and he asked those present to do their best for those who had been nurses all their lives.

Sir Joseph Dimsdale said that the meeting had come together to consider a worthy and Imperial memorial to Miss Nightingale, but Sir William Treloar's speech pointed to a particular object. He then read a letter from Mr. H. Bonham-Carter saying that having regard to the difference of opinion amongst those whose opinions deserve consideration, he considered it premature to appeal to the public on behalf of a special object. Also a letter from the Earl of Pembroke, stating that he was strongly of opinion that those promoting the scheme should be guided by the advice of Mr. Bonham-Carter, and from Mr. Shore Nightingale, who pointed out that many schemes had been proposed and suggestions made, and that it was "going too quick" to give sympathy to any special scheme at present. Sir Joseph Dimsdale proposed as an amendment that a committee should be formed comprising Mr. Haldane, the Earl of Crewe, the Earl of Pembroke, the Earl of Selborne, Sir Thomas Barlow, Mr. Butlin, Mr. Shore Nightingale, and Miss McCaul.

Sir William Treloar criticised the remarks of the last speaker and objected to a cut-and-dried list of names being sprung upon the meeting.

Sir Dyce Duckworth said he thought the motion by Sir Joseph Dimsdale had clarified the atmosphere. There was no animosity intended, and no clashing; he therefore seconded the amendment, proposing at the same time the addition of the names of Lord Charles Beresford, Sir Joseph Dimsdale, and Sir William Treloar.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick proposed that the words "with power to add to their number" be added to the second resolution constituting a committee. As President of Nurses' Societies comprising upwards of 5,000 trained nurses, she claimed that before the character of the memorial was decided upon the views of the nurses should be ascertained. She reminded the meeting that the £30,000 bestowed upon Miss Nightingale by the nation in recognition of her great national work during the Crimean War was not used by her for any scheme of philanthropy, but with it she founded an educational institution—the Nightingale School for Nurses in connection with St. Thomas' Hospital—surely an indication of work in which she was primarily interested. The speaker said that many self-respecting nurses objected to any scheme advanced

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