

The Registered Nurses' Society.



The sixteenth annual meeting of the Registered Nurses' Society was held at the office, 431, Oxford Street, W., on Thursday, July 21st. Dr. Bedford Fenwick presided. The annual report and audited accounts were adopted, both of which proved the successful year's work of the Society. The balance sheet showed that £10,018 had been earned by the nursing staff, and that since the inception of the Society in 1894, £101,226 2s. had been the sum paid to the members—a very satisfactory result of co-operation.

Sisters Caroline Spreadbury and Clara Manley retire in rotation from the Executive Committee, and Sister M. Beardsley automatically upon her marriage. Sisters A. Butcher, E. Thompson, and B. Holland were elected members to replace them.

There have been twenty-one new members elected during the year, and seventeen resignations, amongst the latter upon their marriage Sisters M. Beardsley, H. Hopkins, A. Buxton, L. E. Russ, and E. Rhodes.

Sister A. Graham has been appointed Matron of the Much Wenlock Hospital; Sister H. B. Richards, Lady Health Visitor, Monmouth; Sister C. A. Lade, Matron's Assistant, Leicester Infirmary; and Sister E. M. Bickerdike, Sister, at Mount Vernon Hospital.

Very satisfactory reports have reached the office concerning the majority of the nursing staff, both from medical practitioners and patients, and the Society continues to increase its circle of supporters, but it becomes more and more apparent that increased demands are continuously being made on the knowledge and skill of private nurses, and it is most necessary for them to acquire one or more specialities, in addition to general medical and surgical work. Private nurses find it convenient to be well trained in gynaecological, infectious, ophthalmic, or mental nursing, and in massage, with a wide range of experience they can be kept in constant employment. Medical work is now so highly specialised that it is necessary for nurses to be very efficiently trained for success in private nursing.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Fenwick spoke on the increased necessity for effective co-operation amongst private nurses, as it is the only branch of their work in which it is possible to make sufficient income from which to save for old age, and in consequence it is the one which is most exploited.

After cordial votes of thanks to the Hon.

Officers and the indefatigable secretary, Sister Cartwright, tea and talk were the order of the day.

Progress of State Registration.

At the Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association, held at the Guildhall, London, E.C., on Monday, the following Resolution, moved by Dr. E. W. Goodall, and seconded by Sir Victor Horsley, was carried *nem. con.*

"That this meeting of the Representatives of the British Medical Association, re-affirms its opinion that the State Registration of Trained Nurses is desirable, and approves of the Bill which has been recently introduced by the Right Hon. R. C. Munro Ferguson; and that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister and the President of the Local Government Board."

Lord Amptill has a "Rejoinder" to Mr. Sydney Holland's Registration Reply in the *Nineteenth Century and After* for August. Lord Amptill is so well informed on the registration question, and so admirably logical in all he writes and says on the subject, that his contribution to this important controversy will be invaluable in support of this urgently needed reform, and will, we feel sure, be widely read and approved by unbiassed people.

The Bart's scandal has evidently given an immense impetus to the public interest in nursing questions to judge from the press. *The Spectator*, July 23rd, has an admirable article on "Nurses." *The Pall Mall Gazette* of 25th inst. one on "Nurses and Nurses," by Miss Lucy E. Sherliker, of the Royal British Nurses' Association, which presents the right of the properly qualified to registration in a very clear and sensible manner, and in the *Glasgow Herald* Miss E. A. Stevenson reviews the registration articles which have already appeared in the *Nineteenth Century and After*, concluding as follows:—"I cannot trespass further on your space in criticism of Mr. Holland's opinions. Unwittingly, no doubt, but none the less surely, he has weakened the party on whose side he is fighting. The time has long gone by when the British public will take without question the opinions of a layman on subjects which can only be fully and fairly dealt with by those in the professions to which they belong. As the chairman of a large hospital Mr. Holland's opinions on income and expenditure and general hospital management are valuable, but when he wanders into the realms of surgery and nursing the public will take his views guardedly."

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