

In regard to the legislative proposals now before Parliament, in connection with Lord Wolmer's Asylum Officers' (Employment, Pensions, and Superannuation) Bill, the report states that the grievance of unduly long hours of duty in the wards of some asylums, particularly in Ireland, has from time to time been sympathetically considered by the Executive Committee. It was not thought prudent (in 1909) to load a Bill, seeking for the first time in the face of considerable opposition to gain assured pensions for asylum workers, with provisions for limiting their hours of labour, but now the influence in the constituencies of asylum voters has increased, and what was formerly unattainable may now be in the sphere of practical politics.

REWARDS FOR LONG SERVICE.

The following nurses and attendants received medals for long service:—

GOLD MEDALS.

Attendant W. Jones, N. Wales Counties' Asylum, Denbigh, 41 years and 2 months' continuous service in one asylum.

Nurse B. Allen, District Asylum, Mullingar, 37 years' continuous service in one asylum.

SILVER MEDALS.

Attendant W. Pomeroy, Public Asylum, Jersey, 40 years and 11 months' continuous service in one asylum.

Nurse G. Towns, Glasgow Royal Asylum, 32 years' continuous service in one asylum.

BRONZE MEDALS.

Twenty-six bronze medals were also awarded to the unsuccessful candidates for the above.

Fever Nurses' Association.

The Annual Meeting of the Fever Nurses' Association was held on Monday last at the offices of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, E.C.

Dr. E. W. Goodall presided, and, having thanked the Association for the support accorded him during his term of office, invited the new President, Dr. Pearson, of the City Hospital, Seacroft, Leeds, to give his Presidential address.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Dr. Pearson, in addressing the members, said that the Association was now recognised to be of considerable importance, and eulogised the efforts of Dr. Goodall, Dr. Caiger, and Dr. Biernacki on its behalf. He then referred to the objects of the Association, and to the question of reciprocal training, advocating that all nurses during their general training should have not less than a year's experience of fever nursing. Fever nurses should be taught to be as careful as surgical nurses, and to keep the wards free from sepsis and cross infection, otherwise infectious hospitals might constitute a danger.

Referring to the syllabus of training issued by the Association, he thought that, though good, it

was not quite perfect. Instruction might with advantage be included in elementary physics and chemistry, descriptive lectures, and clinical demonstrations by medical practitioners might also be given, and a standard lecture book in the form of questions and answers, corresponding with the syllabus, could with advantage be arranged, also frequent oral examinations. The Sisters should be called together and instructed in the methods of attaining uniformity in giving instruction.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

Dr. Biernacki then presented the Report of the Council, which showed that the total number of members and registered nurses was now 1,152. The period of grace in which nurses might register without passing a special examination should now expire, but it was proposed to extend it for another year. An examination would, however, be held in October of this year for those who desired to present themselves.

In regard to the question of State Registration of Nurses, several societies during the year intimated to the Central Registration Committee that they desired additions to or alterations in the State Registration Bill. Amongst these was one that affected fever nurses in a special degree, namely, that a clause should be inserted in the Bill extending definite recognition to reciprocal training—an arrangement under which fever training would count towards general training, and *vice versa*. The delegates of the Fever Nurses' Association supported this proposition. In the result the Central Registration Committee declined to introduce the clause on the ground that it was unnecessary, as there is nothing in the Bill to prevent the permissive adoption of reciprocal training. Subsequently the Executive Committee obtained counsel's opinion on this point. This opinion was to the effect that it was open to the Council instituted by the Bill to refuse to permit reciprocal training if it so desired. The Executive are of opinion that steps should be taken in due course to obtain the insertion of a clause in the Bill dealing with the question of reciprocal training.

The following medical men and nurse members were elected to fill vacancies on the Council:—Dr. H. Benton, M.O.H., East Ham; Dr. Cameron, South-Eastern Hospital; Dr. R. Haldane Cook, Enfield and Edmonton Isolation Hospital; Dr. D'Amico, Isolation Hospital, West Heath, Birmingham; Dr. J. Fletcher, City Fever Hospital, Monsall; Dr. Ta'Bois, Clare Hall Hospital, South Minns, Barnet; Miss Keen, Matron, Fever Hospital, Willesden; Miss Rhind, Lady Superintendent, Cork Street Fever Hospital, Dublin; Miss Ross, Matron, Western Hospital, S.W.; Miss Rainbow, Brook Hospital; Miss A. Smith, Eastern Hospital; and Miss Thomas, City Hospital, Sheffield.

The Report was adopted, on the motion of Dr. Goodall, and the Financial Report was then presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Caiger, the largest item being £14 3s. for legal advice.

The question of the payment of the travelling expenses of provincial members of the Council and Committees was brought up by Dr. Caiger.

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