

Miss L. V. Haughton, Matron, Guy's Hospital, Miss Cutler, Assistant Matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Miss E. M. Musson, Matron, General Hospital, Birmingham, and Miss A. Smith, Matron, Kingston Infirmary.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Financial Statement showed a balance of £45 16s. 11d. in hand, which the President pointed out might be increased if all members who were annual subscribers sent the shilling subscription promptly.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick also reminded the members that the passage of the Bill through the House of Lords had cost £100, and that for the last 25 years nurses had been paying to promote this reform of national importance. To get the Bill through the House of Commons it would certainly be necessary to call for a similar sum, and the nurses would again pay. Their opponents were rich men, but they did not put their hands into their own pockets to finance this industrial battle. The Central Hospital Council for London, which was the active opponent of Nurses' Registration, had taken power to defray its expenses by annual contributions from the constituent hospitals. That was to say, out of money subscribed by the charitable public for the relief of the sick poor.

RESOLUTION.

The following Resolution, proposed by Miss Beatrice Kent, and seconded by Mrs. Shuter, was carried unanimously:—

"That the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses notes with regret that the Government have not yet granted facilities for the discussion of the Nurses' Registration Bill, now for the ninth time before the House of Commons, and would most earnestly plead that effect should be given, at the earliest possible date, to the unanimous recommendation of the Select Committee on Registration of Nurses (1905), 'that it is desirable that a Register of Nurses should be kept by a Central Body appointed by the State.'

"This Society begs to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the Nurses' Registration Bill is now supported by the following medical and nursing societies, representing a united membership of 30,000 registered medical practitioners and trained nurses, resident in every quarter of the United Kingdom:—The British Medical Association, the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the Royal British Nurses' Association, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the Fever Nurses' Association, the Scottish Nurses' Association, the Association for the Promotion of Registration of Nurses in Scotland, and the Irish Nurses' Association.

"Further, that the opposition to the organisation of trained nursing by the State emanates from a few hospital governors and officials, and from the medical and nursing staffs under their control, and not from any organised associations of either medical practitioners or nurses.

"Further, that State Registration of Trained Nurses is already in force in the South African

States of Cape Colony, Natal, and the Transvaal; in New Zealand; in 29 of the United States of America; in the German Empire; and in Belgium. That during the last year Bills for the State Registration of Nurses have been drafted in every State of the Commonwealth of Australia, and in the Province of Ontario in the Dominion of Canada, and it is imperatively necessary for the welfare of the sick in this country, and for the trained nurses who serve them, that a minimum standard of nursing education shall at an early date be enforced by Act of Parliament, so as to enable these indispensable workers to give a guarantee of efficiency to the public, and to avail themselves of a system of reciprocity, in the exercise of their profession, in Dominions beyond the seas."

In proposing the Resolution, Miss Kent said that she failed to understand the object of a Select Committee, unless it was to form public opinion. The Select Committee on Nurses' Registration had taken an immense amount of evidence, and in 1905 presented a unanimous report in its favour. The next step was naturally that facilities should be granted for the Bill. Nothing else was reasonable and logical. She supposed we were "to wait and see." We had waited, but we did not see. Nurses could help on the Registration movement by talking about it. If they were good registrationists they would also support and subscribe for the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the official organ of their Society, and induce others to do the same. It was a journal to be proud of. Briefly, Registration would be both a protection to nurses, and a safeguard for the sick public against fraudulent nurses. Three words might form the watchword of its advocates. Aspiration, articulation, co-operation.

Mrs. Shuter seconded the resolution, which was passed unanimously.

The President then proposed from the chair that a copy of the Resolution should be sent to every member of the Government, asking that facilities might be given to Mr. Munro Ferguson's Bill. The only people who were listened to were those who were pertinacious. Nurses had waited in patience for long, but their patience was becoming exhausted. They must have public meetings and plain speaking, and bring their opponents to the bar of public opinion as they had already brought them before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and the House of Lords. Pseudo philanthropists could no longer be permitted to block this reform.

THE NEED FOR STATE REGISTRATION IN INDIA.

Mrs. W. H. Klosz, R.N., Editor of *The Nursing Journal of India*, then presented a most interesting paper on Nursing in India, which we hope to publish in full next week.

After a vote of thanks to the chair, proposed by Mrs. Maxwell St. John, R.R.C., the majority of those present accepted the kind invitation of Mrs. Walter Spencer to tea at 2, Portland Place, where as usual they received a most kind and hospitable welcome.

M. BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

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