

She said "the inexpensive nurse means a sweated nurse or a half-trained nurse," and it was the business of the Irish Nurses' Association to see that those who were employed as nurses should, for the credit of the profession, for their own sakes as wage earners, and last, but not least, as guardians of the sick poor, be fully trained and competent persons. It was in order to insure this the Irish Nurses' Association were working so hard to obtain State Registration. Referring to the decrease in membership, Lady Hermione urged on the members to remember that though if they said to themselves it was not worth their while to pay a subscription in order to participate in a few social functions, or to enable them to attend some lectures, they were forgetting that the real object of the Association was to enable nurses by organisation to raise and safeguard the interests of their profession. The more members joined an Association of this kind the more they strengthened the hands of the leaders who were willing to fight their battles. Lady Hermione then introduced Miss Day, who had travelled specially from Cork to explain the provisions of the Insurance Bill as it affects women, and especially nurses.

Miss Day, in a very clear and amusing address, pointed out how badly women came off in the Bill as it stands at present. She said that if women had had a vote it would never have been sent up with such disregard for their interests.

She pointed out the hardships of the Bill on the married woman, and what she named the penalising of young girls in order that funds might be forthcoming for widows. She spoke strongly on the injustice of the maternity benefit coming entirely from the funds of the women in the case of unmarried mothers. "As we all know," she said, "the laws as regards unmarried mothers are terribly unjust, and in this Bill, again, the partner in guilt gets off free, no contributions being exacted in these cases from the men's funds. She advised nurses to start a Friendly Society of their own, and concluded by saying that until women learnt the value of organisation they would always go to the wall.

A warm vote of thanks to Miss Day was proposed by Miss Duffin and seconded by Miss Johnson. Votes of thanks to the office bearers, the Amusements Committee and the lecturers were heartily carried. A vote of thanks to Miss M. Workman, the indefatigable and enthusiastic Honorary Secretary, was proposed and warmly applauded. Tea was served by Mrs. Harris, the Matron of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, who always gives the members of the Irish Nurses' Association the kindest of welcomes. All those present said that, thanks to Miss Day, this was one of the most interesting annual meetings they had attended. Three new members joined the Association.

Miss Swarbrick and Miss Cross were unanimously elected Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year, Miss Newman, Miss White and Miss Workman were re-elected members of the Finance Committee, and the Amusements Committee were also re-elected.

### THE NURSES' PROTECTION COMMITTEE.

A Meeting of the Nurses' Protection Committee will be held at 431, Oxford Street, W., on the 2nd November, to consider further amendments to the National Insurance Bill—

1. To support a suggestion made in *The Times*:—

"To add a new clause allowing those women who obtain board and lodging from their employers to insure in a centralized fund providing annuity benefit, disablement benefit, and sanatorium benefit."

2. And to consider the principle of the following paragraph:—

"That until such time as Parliament regulates the qualifications and provides for the registration of Trained Nurses, none but fully trained and certificated nurses be employed to attend upon insured persons."

The State provides for a minimum standard of medical and midwifery practice through the Medical Acts, and the Midwives Act, and it has no right to subsidize untested nurses. The sick have as much right to a State guarantee as to the qualifications of nurses for whose services they are compelled to subscribe, as they have for those already prescribed for their medical and midwifery attendants.

We would plead with every reader who agrees with this statement to write at once to the Member of Parliament of the constituency in which she resides, and ask him to support the principles embodied in the above clauses.

### PRESENTATION.

On leaving the General Hospital, Birmingham, to take up her work at Chester Infirmary, Miss E. K. Blayney received from the Nursing Staff a "Liberty" beaten silver tea set; and from the Matron, six silver tea spoons. Her departure is much regretted by all those with whom, and for whom, she has worked.

### THE IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION LECTURES.

November 1st. — "Work in America." Miss Damer.

November 22nd. — "Rheumatism." Dr. C. Preston Ball.

December 1st. — "Poisons." Mr. W. Taylor, F.R.C.S.I.

December 19th. — "Labour Exchanges." Miss Brown, B.A.

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