

THE SCOTTISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Scottish Nurses' Association was held in the Masonic Hall, Glasgow, on Thursday, November 23rd. Sir William Macewen, President, was in the chair. The report, which was submitted by Dr. Hamilton Robertson, stated that there had been a steady increase in new members. With reference to the Nurses' Registration Bill, it was not yet entirely satisfactory, because it did not deal justly with fever nurses. The training in fever hospitals ought to be recognised as equivalent to a certain portion of the whole training required in the Bill, provided these hospitals fulfilled the conditions laid down by the Central Nurses' Council. Nothing short of that would be satisfactory either to local authorities, Medical Officers of Health, or the fever hospital authorities and nurses.

Since the last annual meeting of the Association the Local Government Board for Scotland has issued a circular regarding the examination and certification of trained Fever Nurses. With the circular there is issued a syllabus of the training that should be provided for Fever Nurses in Fever Hospitals, and of the subjects in which Fever Nurses should be examined for certificates under the L.G.B. It would be quite impossible to refuse to accept the certificates granted under this scheme by the L.G.B. to Fever Nurses. It seems to your Executive, therefore, that the Registration Bill must be amended in the direction of stating explicitly the extent to which such training will be accepted for the purposes of the Bill.

As regards the National Insurance Bill, the report stated that there was no specification as to what kind of nurses were to be appointed by Local Health Committees, and until there was a legally established standard of training, followed by a State examination for nurses, difficulties and confusion were certain to occur in the making of these appointments, the interests of trained nurses would be in jeopardy, and the sick were apt to suffer. When an Act of Parliament provided for the appointment of nurses to care for the sick of a civil population of fifteen millions, it was surely time that Parliament should state also by what means nurses, fit for such appointments, were to be recognised. The financial statement showed that the income, including a balance of £42 17s. 8d. from last year, amounted to £87 4s. 2d., and after meeting all expenditure there remained at the close of the financial year a balance of £57 11s. 5d. Both reports were adopted, and the office-bearers were re-elected, the only change being the appointment of Miss Dow as treasurer, in place of Miss Burleigh.

Sir William Macewen then addressed the meeting reviewing the position of nurses generally. He appealed for further members, as only by increasing their strength could they achieve their objects.

He said the fever nurses had occupied a considerable part of the report, because the association

had tried to put their training on such a footing that it would be acknowledged as a certain part of the education that the State would insist on all nurses undergoing. There was one party that thought that fever should not be included as one of the points of training necessary for State Registration. There were others, among whom was the Scottish Nurses' Association, that believed that fever nursing, if it was properly organised, ought to count for part of the medical training that they would be required afterwards to undergo if it was in a recognised fever hospital.

Miss Waddington spoke eloquently on the Insurance Bill and the urgent need for passing the Nurses' Registration Bill.

A letter was read from Mrs. Strong, ex-Matron of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, sending greetings and congratulating the Association on its progress. Her letter concluded with the words "Cannot each of you induce one of your comrades to join us in our pioneer work? We should then be doubled in strength and could accomplish more."

At the close of the meeting tea was served and greatly enjoyed.

THE CATHOLIC NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting was held last week at Lourdes House, Mountjoy Square, Dublin, in connection with the organisation of a Catholic Nurses' Association, when the provisional committee expressed their satisfaction at the manner in which the project had been taken up. A large number of applications had been received from Matrons and Nurses in county infirmaries, fever hospitals, district hospitals, mental and maternity hospitals, and in several of the private hospitals, and co-operations in Dublin who expressed their pleasure that such an Association was being established. The organisation is open to nurses and midwives, and the committee urge upon nurses in Ireland, of the Roman branch of the Catholic Church, the urgent necessity for the formation and development of Roman Catholic Societies at once, more especially in view of the necessity for fully and immediately drawing the attention of members of Parliament to the clauses of the National Insurance Bill in which the interests of nurses are involved. Miss R. M. M'Loughlin is the Hon. Secretary.

The reason for a religious qualification for membership of a Society which apparently is not formed primarily for social intercourse, but for the purpose of taking professional and political action, is not quite apparent. So far nurses in different countries, of all shades of religious belief, are organised in professional societies.

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