

leges will be continued, in the same degree, if the provisions of the National Insurance Bill are applied to them. We trust, therefore, that notwithstanding your numerous and important engagements you will be good enough to receive a Deputation of trained nurses. In the event of your consent the following ladies were nominated to wait upon you at your convenience:—

MISS MOLLETT, Hon. Secretary, Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

MISS COX-DAVIES, Matron, Royal Free Hospital; President, League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

MISS CUTLER, Assistant Matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

MISS BARRON, Matron, Chelsea Infirmary (Poor Law Nurses).

MISS AMY HUGHES, General Superintendent, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses (District Nurses).

MISS M. BREAY, Hon. Secretary, Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses (3,000 members).

MISS S. CARTWRIGHT, Secretary, Registered Nurses' Society (Private Nurses).

MISS E. FOWLER (Home Hospitals).

THE LADY HERMIONE BLACKWOOD, Queen's Nurse, President, Ulster Branch, Irish Nurses' Association.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, President, National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ETHEL G. FENWICK,

Chairman of the Nurses' Committee.

#### SUB-SECTION (E) OMITTED.

The Chairman of the Nurses' Committee spent Tuesday afternoon in the House of Commons interviewing members and urging them to vote for the amendment on Clause 8, omitting the objectionable sub-section (e). On the House going into Committee this amendment was moved by Mr. Bridgeman, who said that the sub-section had been condemned as a swindle upon those who had to contribute (which included nurses). The Chancellor of the Exchequer accepted the amendment, a decision which has been received with the greatest relief by nurses who realised the disastrous result of retaining it.

#### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

A special meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association was held at the Chelsea Infirmary, on July 14th, to consider the National Insurance Bill in connection with nurses. Miss Hughes, General Superintendent of the Q.V.J.I., kindly attended, and explained its objects. After outlining the purport of the Bill, Miss Hughes pointed out that nurses were in a peculiar position in regard to it. They would have to contribute 3d. a week like other women workers to receive medical

benefits (free medical attendance and free medicines), which had hitherto always been given them. Some of the members present pointed out that under the altered conditions that might arise under the Bill, this courtesy might not be extended to them in the future.

Many questions were asked as to the position of Poor Law Nurses, whether they were exempted either as "Civil Servants" or as contributing to the Superannuation Fund, but it is at present very difficult to get any definite or reliable opinion on this point. It was agreed that the interests of nurses should be carefully watched. It was pointed out that being themselves engaged in the work of lessening the illness of the community, nurses should receive preferential treatment under the Bill, while as it now stood they were at a disadvantage compared to other women workers.

It was also explained that the Bill was based on the idea that the workers were members of approved Friendly Societies, and that these societies would gather in the contributions and distribute the benefits. To add to the difficulties of nurses in the matter, very few, if any, of the existing Friendly Societies would take them. The promoters of the National Pension Fund for nurses were willing to start a Friendly Society. Some of the members present approved of such an idea, while others were anxious that nurses should form a Friendly Society for themselves. All were agreed that as much information should be gathered as possible as to existing societies.

#### WOMEN'S PROTEST MEETING AT CAXTON HALL

At a meeting to protest against the unfair treatment of women in the Insurance Bill, held at Caxton Hall on the 13th inst., at which Miss Gore Booth presided, the following Resolution was proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., and supported by Lord Lytton, Miss Roper, and others, and passed unanimously:—

#### RESOLUTION.

"This Meeting protests against the different standards of benefits for men and women under the National Insurance Bill, and against the exclusion of about half the female contributors from any money health benefit whatsoever.

"Against their exclusion from out of work benefit whilst they are at the same time obliged to pay their employer's contribution and their own.

"They regard maternity benefit as no adequate substitute for ordinary sick pay, and they protest against the disqualification of married women as voluntary contributors.

"They consider the bad terms given to Post Office contributors as specially injurious to women.

"They regard the blindness of the Insurance Bill to the interests of women as an instance of that political negligence which is always the lot of the unenfranchised, and they urge upon the Government to give the earliest possible facilities next year for the passing into law of the Women's Suffrage Conciliation Bill."

Mrs. Fenwick laid stress on the unjust treatment of nurses in the Bill.

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