

Miss Gill, Lady Superintendent, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, seconded, and the report was adopted.

Mr. J. Duncan Millar, M.P., speaking in support of the principles of the Bill, said he thought there were few objects which were more deserving of sympathy and support than the proper training and equipment of those in whose charge were placed their suffering humanity. He thought if they got the Bill through it would be one of the most permanent memorials of the work of Florence Nightingale. The Bill, he said, had created a great deal of interest in the country and in the House of Commons. He was prepared to do all in his power to advance the prospects of the Bill in the House of Commons. The movement was a national affair, and ought to be regarded in that light.

On the motion of Dr. Renton it was agreed that the present acting secretary, the hon. secretary, the hon. treasurer and the Executive Committee watch the progress of the Bill through Parliament, and take such action as they considered necessary.

Mr. L. H. M. Dick, secretary of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, explained the National Insurance Act as it affected the nursing profession.

### QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE.

#### CONFERENCE ON THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

A Conference of representatives of the affiliated associations of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was held at Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W., on Wednesday, February 28th, to discuss the bearing of the National Insurance Act on district nurses, and to consider a scheme for obtaining more representation of the affiliated Associations on the Council. Mr. R. B. D. Acland, K.C., presided, and stated that the Institute had been asked by the Commissioners under the National Insurance Act, to nominate three persons who would be willing to serve on the Advisory Committee of the National Health Insurance Joint Committee.

The Council nominated Miss Hughes, General Superintendent, Lady Susan Gilmour, and Mr. D. F. Pennant, Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Pennant, who spoke on the question of obtaining grants from the Approved Societies under Section 21, said a great deal had been heard of the probable loss of subscriptions to district associations. It was too early yet to estimate whether there would be any substantial falling off

but there was no reasonable ground for withdrawing subscriptions this year as there would be no benefits under the Act during the present year.

On broad principles they must seek to establish a provision that the services of a visiting district nurse should be available to all persons insured under the Act when so required. This should be an essential part of any scheme of national health insurance, and for this they must put forward a definite claim. The question was how far this was possible under the Act. He understood Section 21 to mean that it gives power to an Approved Society on behalf of its members to contribute to the support of a district nurse.

One of the greatest difficulties between doctors and the Government was that the Act encouraged contract practice. This difficulty did not exist with District Nursing, for one nurse usually attended all cases requiring nursing attendance within a given area. In towns it was almost universal for given areas each to have their own nurse.

In the United States and Canada a system was in force by which provision against sickness was made through an Industrial Company, which arranged for the nursing attendance on policy holders. The Nursing Association employed by the Company is notified each morning of the cases needing visiting, and renders a return of the visits paid, for which it is re-imbursed on the basis of the number of visits paid, which worked out at the rate of about a shilling per head per visit, in some cases higher. Health Insurance Committees would find it profitable to subsidize the Nursing Associations.

Mr. Saunders of Liverpool pointed out the possibility of competitive nurses being appointed. Their representatives should inform the Commissioners the cost at which the associations could do the work, otherwise other nurses might be appointed over their heads.

After some discussion a motion was carried:—  
“That the Insurance Commissioners be asked by deputation from the Institute and the larger associations, or otherwise, to request the Institute and the various associations throughout the country to submit schemes as to how and on what terms insured persons could be visited and nursed in the different districts, and that work under the sanatorium benefit clauses be included.”

On the motion of Lady Selborne it was also resolved:—“That the Institute be requested to issue a circular to all affiliated institutions calling attention to the importance of securing representation on the Insurance Committee through the council of the county or county borough, and expressed the opinion that where any representation is to be made on county council it is desirable that it should be made through the county association or number of associations acting together.”

Dr. Fremantle (M.O.H. Hertfordshire), speaking on the way in which the Act might affect district nurses practising as midwives, said that the hardship of a nurse having to pay 15s. a year

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