

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, London, W., on the afternoon of Friday, June 7th. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the President, who was in the chair, called upon the Hon. Secretary, Miss M. Breay, to read the minutes of the last Annual Meeting.

NEW MEMBERS.

Before calling upon the Hon. Secretary to read the Annual Report the President invited the meeting to elect 66 new members, so that the society might have the benefit of their support as soon as possible. The new members were unanimously elected, and their names will be published next week.

The Hon. Secretary then read the Annual Report and Financial Statement, which were adopted.

THE ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS.

The Annual Report drew attention to the evidence of increasing urgency for the definition of a minimum standard of professional education for trained nurses, and the recognition by the State of those who attain it, not only in the interest of the nurses, but for the protection of the sick public, as forcibly demonstrated during, and since, the passing of the National Insurance Act.

One hundred and fifty-seven new members had joined the Society during the year, bringing the total membership up to 3,185. The Report mentioned that nurses in Scotland and Ireland are actively working through their own professional Societies for their Registration by the State. It also referred to the unsatisfactory position of nurses and of nursing under the National Insurance Act, and pointed out that while the quality of medical treatment and of the care to be given by midwives to insured sick persons was standardized by restricting it to registered medical practitioners and certified midwives, the quality of the trained nursing to be provided and paid for was left indeterminate, as there is no statutory definition of a trained nurse. Further, that though every effort had been made to secure direct representation of Trained Nurses, through their professional organizations, on the Joint Advisory Committee and the National Advisory Committee for England and Wales, they had been excluded from such organization, and consequently from the power of advising the Com-

missioners concerning the standard of nursing for the insured sick, and the remuneration of nurses under the Act.

REGISTRATION OUTSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Attention was drawn to the Acts recently passed for the Registration of Nurses in the States of Delaware, South Carolina, and Rhode Island, in the United States of America, bringing the number of these States up to 34, and in the British Dominions in Queensland and Ontario, and to the necessity for a definite qualification for trained nurses in the United Kingdom, in order that there may be reciprocal recognition between Great Britain and her Dominions beyond the seas.

The Audited Accounts showed a balance at the Bank and in hand of £40 7s. 6d.

Arising out of the Report was the appointment of a representative to the International Congress of Nurses at Cologne, and on the proposition of Miss E. Pell Smith, seconded by Mrs. Bridges, the President was nominated and consented to act, if it was the wish of the members. This was carried unanimously.

Referring to the question of direct representation under the National Insurance Act, the President said that English nurses felt strongly their exclusion from such representation on the Advisory Committees.

The Scottish Commissioners had appointed Miss A. W. Gill, R.R.C., President of the Scottish Matrons' Association and the Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Miss Gill was nominated both by the Matrons' and the Nurses' Association, and Scottish nurses therefore felt they had direct representation. She was sure the meeting would wish to congratulate them upon it.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee were then re-elected for the ensuing year, with the addition of Miss I. C. Keogh, late President of the Irish Nurses' Association, and Miss Hanan, Secretary.

ADDRESS BY DR. W. A. CHAPPLE, M.P.

The President then said that it was with much pleasure, which she was sure the members shared, that she called upon Dr. Chapple, who had been good enough to spare time to be present, to address the meeting.

Dr. W. A. Chapple, M.P. for Stirlingshire, and formerly a Member of Parliament in New Zealand, said that he had been invited to speak because of his experience in New Zealand, and was aware of the beneficial changes in that country since the passing of the Nurses Registration Act.

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