

employment of nurses in that capacity, quoting with great appreciation the numbers of school nurses and district nurses, &c., employed in England.

There was a kind of Socialistic tendency in the air, and it was not to be wondered at, when one thinks that Cologne had just, for the first time, returned Social Democrats, and not Ultramontanes, to the Reichstag. Amongst the free German nurses there was certainly the feeling that they had the right to demand their "place in the sun" in return for their work.

Roughly speaking, the line of cleavage between those who regard sickness and disease as an infliction of Providence, to be met by the most boundless and unquestioning self-sacrifice on the part of the nurse, and those who regard sickness and disease as an aberration from the normal—frequently preventable—to be met on the part of the nurse with scientific and skilled humanity, was at times very palpable.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK moved the adoption of the Report, which was seconded and agreed to.

#### THE BANNER.

MRS. FENWICK then moved that the Matrons' Council should have a Banner; that it should be handsome and representative, and should include the beautiful motto of the Council, "Cogito Ergo Sum" ("I think, therefore I am"). This resolution was seconded by Miss MUSSON.

After some discussion as to cost, the resolution was agreed to, and the Hon. Officers were instructed to submit designs and prices at the next meeting of the Council.

#### DELEGATE TO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

It was proposed and seconded that a delegate be appointed to represent the Council on the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, to which the Matrons' Council is affiliated, who could attend the Extraordinary Meeting to be held in London on November 20th to consider the position of women under the Franchise and Registration Bill now before Parliament.

The names of three alternative members were agreed to, and the Hon. Secretary instructed to invite them to act.

#### TRAINED NURSING IN WAR.

Miss MUSSON proposed: "That in the opinion of this meeting only nurses who are fully trained should be sent to nurse the sick and wounded in time of war, and that no base hospital can be considered properly equipped which has not a staff of such nurses."

This was seconded by Miss JOLLEY, warmly supported by MRS. FENWICK, and carried unanimously. The Hon. Secretary was instructed to send copies of the resolution to the proper authorities.

This terminated the Business Meeting.

#### THE OPEN MEETING.

A most hospitable tea was then served in the Sisters' sitting-room, which was a bower of lovely

flowers. Mr. A. M. Lamb represented the Board of Management, and the following members of the medical staff attended:—Dr. R. Prosser White, Dr. E. Hodgkinson Monks, Dr. Brady, Dr. John Blair, Dr. Rees, Dr. M. Benson, Dr. Darlington, and Dr. Oag. Many ladies, friends of the Hospital, were present, amongst them the wives of the medical staff, and Lady Ratcliffe Ellis, Mrs. James Brown, Mrs. Kinch, Mrs. and Miss Rawcliffe, Mrs. Kenneth Marshall, Miss Edwards, Mrs. Hastings, Mrs. Brierly, Miss Brown, Mrs. Bryan, Mrs. James, and Mrs. Woods.

#### THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

After tea a well-attended open meeting was held in the beautiful rooms in the new Nurses' Home, the nurses' drawing-room and lecture rooms being thrown into one for the occasion, when Mrs. Bedford Fenwick delivered an address on the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses. She dealt principally with the educational and economic details of the question, emphasising the necessity for State organisation and protection for every large class of skilled workers, if high standards of skill and discipline were to be maintained, and just economic conditions protected.

Mrs. Fenwick said much had been accomplished in the twenty-five years the nurses had been demanding the standardisation of their profession, and as it took the medical profession, who had votes, fifty years to obtain just legislation, they—the nurses—need not be disheartened. She pointed out that under the chairmanship of Lord Ampthill all the organised societies of trained nurses, together with the British Medical Association, formed the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and had agreed upon one Bill. The Bill was a sound one. It provided for the one portal admission to the register; granted a legal title of "registered nurse" to nurses admitted; provided for a full term of three years' grace, during which time all reputable trained nurses might register without further examination for the small fee of £2 2s.; for an examination fee of £3 3s., after the term of grace, a sum small in itself, but which would provide funds to place at the command of trained nurses the highest standard of medical and nursing examiners and inspectors, and in return for having, after three years' training, passed a prescribed examination, they would receive the hall mark of professional status.

Also the Act provided for a Central Governing Body, on which the registered nurses, once the electorate was formed, would vote for their own representatives, so that if they did not look well after the interests of the nursing profession they could be superseded by others.

Mrs. Fenwick alluded to the helpless position of trained nurses under the Insurance Act, presumably because their work was required cheap they had been excluded from direct representation on the Advisory Board and they were the only class of workers to be so

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