

proposed." The following telegram from Lady Hermione was received later:—"The Ulster Branch Irish Nurses' Association protests against the present improper wearing of nurses' uniform by unqualified persons, and suggests that steps should be taken to render it illegal to do so."

Miss Wright, the Matron of the Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, containing nearly 1,000 beds, wrote:—"We are all so glad that you are taking up the awful abuse of nurses' uniform. I read the Driver case with indignation and disgust. I think the procuring of innocent girls by women wearing the garb of a profession known to be honourable, true and helpful is a most dreadful abuse. . . . Cannot we have our uniform protected as the Army have theirs, and persons punished who wear it without right? Will Parliament give us no redress, or will our demands be shoved aside as women's franchise has been? May your protest meeting have warm support."

Miss Macintyre, the Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Wigan, wrote:—"It is sad to know to what depth of degradation our uniform has been brought when it is worn by women of the very lowest character. . . . all honour to those who, by their courageous endeavours, are trying to stop this most disgraceful condition of things, and may every self-respecting nurse realise that it is her duty to do all in her power to help to get the protection which is so much needed."

Miss Waind, of Guildford, wrote, "To read in the newspapers of women accused of theft, &c., appearing in the dock in the guise of a nurse (generally without any justification, I am glad to say) does not tend to heighten the respect which used to be accorded to this special dress; and the fact that women of the worst type are known to masquerade in it with impunity, has not only robbed it of any power as a protection, but has created mistrust and doubt in the minds of those who may legitimately use it. I voice the comments of every member of the Galen House staff."

Mrs. Fenwick then moved the following resolution which though somewhat long, she said, dealt inclusively with the far-reaching question, of the power, through self-government, of the protection of her cloth by the trained nurse.

#### RESOLUTION.

"This Meeting emphatically protests against the grave injury suffered by the Nursing Profession as a whole, in the estimation of the public, through the exploitation of their professional uniform by persons who have no right to wear it, and who do so for commercial and also for criminal purposes, thus associating fully trained nurses in the public mind with unskilled persons assuming to be skilled, and with persons of immoral character.

"In the opinion of this Meeting the use of Nurses' Uniform by others than Members of the Profession is purposely designed to deceive the public to their detriment and danger, and is of fraudulent intent. Moreover, in this connection, this Meeting strongly condemns the habit of criminal persons, purporting to be trained nurses, appearing in the dock in uniform, with the object of arousing sentimental consideration for their crimes and sentences.

"This Meeting considers that the lack of legal status and power of self-government for trained nurses is primarily responsible for the injuries suffered both by them and the public; and urges upon Parliament the necessity for immediate legislation, as embodied in the Nurses' Registration Bill, which provides for tests of efficiency, and for the maintenance of discipline amongst Registered Nurses.

"In this connection, this Meeting begs to thank the Prime Minister for his recent promise, in the House of Commons, that the claims of the Nurses' Registration Bill shall receive consideration, and respectfully urges him to provide facilities, this Session, for passing it into law."

Mrs. Fenwick said that in times past nurses' uniform was universally respected, and in it she could safely attend the sick in the lowest slum. Very simple, neat, useful, and becoming, the cloth of the trained nurse was worn by her with pleasure and security, but owing to the lack of any power to protect her work or her uniform, both had been degraded by the unworthy, and the vocation of nursing terribly depreciated thereby. The first clause of the resolution protested against this grave injury, which had been accentuated of late; and the White Slave Traffic scandals, and such infamous instances as that known as the Driver case, had aroused widespread indignation amongst the self-respecting members of the Nursing Profession. Mrs. Fenwick then alluded to the details of this disgraceful charge, and proceeded to give instances in support of the accusation that the nurses' uniform was worn to cover criminal proceedings. She divided offenders as to misuse of nurses' uniform into two classes—1, Criminals; and 2, Those who ought to know better. In the first class were Thieves and Swindlers, Forgers of Certificates, Abortionists, Baby Farmers, Prostitutes, and White Slave Procuresses.

#### TRAINED NURSES' UNIFORM IN THE DOCK.

Mrs. Fenwick stated that she had preserved a large box full of newspaper cuttings of cases in which criminals of every description, the majority of whom insisted upon wearing trained nurses' uniform in the dock, had been convicted of nearly every species of crime, and for which as such they had been imprisoned with and without hard labour, had been sent to penal servitude for manslaughter, and hanged for murder, and she proceeded to give instances in support of this statement specifying the case and result, from a huge tabulated sheet, an astonishing record which, widely reported in the press, under headlines classing these evil-doers as "Nurses" without any attempt at verification, had inspired widespread distrust in the public mind concerning trained nurses, and done them irreparable injury.

Under the second heading of the misuse of Nurses' Uniform by "Those who ought to know better" was mentioned St. John Ambulance Association, which had adopted as the dress of its Voluntary Aid Detachments trained nurses' uniforms complete in every detail—a quite inexcusable proceeding upon the part of such an Associa-

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