

tion, as those empowered to wear it had no right whatever to pose and dress as trained nurses, because they had been taught by lectures and demonstrations first aid to the sick, home nursing, and hygiene, all very useful knowledge, but which did not constitute the training of a professional nurse. And (2) Nursing Associations which supply the defenceless poor with dangerously inefficient attendants as "professional" nurses who were merely cottage helps and who, paid a sweated wage, undermined the standards of district nurses' training and their economic value.

THE REMEDY—A NATIONAL UNIFORM AND BADGE.

In the opinion of the organised nurses, Mrs. Fenwick continued, legislation was the only remedy. Through an Act for the State Registration of Nurses, giving the profession power to govern itself, and to maintain discipline in its ranks, it would not be beyond the wit of trained nurses to remedy many evils and disabilities from which they now suffered. It was quite useless to go to Parliament and ask for the passing of sumptuary laws, but an Act could protect the legal title of "Registered Nurse," and it might be possible to devise a National Uniform and Badge, which would be restricted to Registered Nurses—which the profession might wear with pride and pleasure, and which the public would soon come to recognise, as they now did that of the Army Nursing Service, as the exclusive uniform of an honourable class of women.

Mrs. Fenwick then proved the helpless and unjust condition of trained nurses in the body politic by their treatment under the National Insurance Act, and by the slur cast upon their cloth and character by the refusal of the Lyceum Club to recognise the higher grades of Trained Nursing as a qualification for membership—along with doctors, authors, journalists, painters, photographers, workers in arts and crafts, gardeners, mountain climbers, and other professional women workers.

The misuse of their uniform was a sign of the general depreciation and exploitation of their indispensable work—and nothing but legal status through the passing of the Nurses' Registration Bill could provide the necessary power to rehabilitate it in public estimation—and encourage educated women of high ethical standards to enter the nursing profession.

Dr. Chapple then called on Miss E. B. Kingsford to second the Resolution.

Miss Kingsford said she had very great pleasure in seconding the Resolution. She thought we must all realise that we had not done so much as we might have done to make a stir, and so to protect our professional uniform. It was always sad when things fell into disrepute. It was specially sad in the present instance because the discredit came not from inside but outside the profession, from the wolves in sheep's clothing. Miss Kingsford remarked that when she trained the nurses' uniform clothed honest women, who

were respected as such. Now women in uniform had to run the gauntlet of public opinion. She hoped to see nursing a profession registered and protected by the State.

Amongst those who took part in the discussion was Miss Beatrice Kent, who expressed her gratitude to Dr. Chapple for championing the cause of Nurses' Registration in the House of Commons. It was hardly possible to over-estimate the advantage it was to have such a good friend in the House, who also was doing missionary work amongst other members. She supported Mrs. Fenwick's suggestion of a National Uniform for Nurses when registered.

Miss Breay spoke of the recognition of the status of midwives through registration, even though their training was only of three months' duration. The public were quite ready to accept that as the only guarantee they could get of the fitness of a woman to care for the sick, and there was a real danger of the nursing of the sick poor in rural districts passing largely into the hands of midwives. Moreover when it became necessary for a midwife to be removed from the Midwives' Roll, and penal for her to use the name of midwife, she could adopt the title of nurse with impunity. She instanced one midwife who after a career of crime was removed from the Midwives' Roll in 1906 after being sentenced to three years' penal servitude. On the next occasion of her getting into trouble paragraphs in the press giving details of the case were headed "Professional Nurse as thief."

Sister Esther, of the West London Mission, thanked Mrs. Bedford Fenwick for her address, and corroborated all she had said. If, as a district nurse, she were not obliged to wear uniform she would not do so. She had met many young women who were a disgrace to the uniform and she knew a medical man who complained of the difficulty of getting nurses of the same type as formerly, and said that there was a great need throughout the country of a good class of nurse.

A member of the medical profession present drew attention to the misuse of nurses' uniform in the houses of many of his colleagues at the West End, where the maids who opened their front doors, and waited on their patients, were frequently to be seen wearing it.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

On the proposition of Mrs. Stabb seconded by Miss Hulme it was unanimously agreed that the Resolution should be sent to the Prime Minister and to Members of Parliament. The meeting concluded with a most cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Chapple for presiding, proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and carried by acclamation.

It is reported that Dr. Simon Flexner (Director of the Rockefeller Institute of Scientific Research), has discovered the germ of epidemic poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis). He states that the organism is one of the smallest ever identified.

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