

## ULSTER BRANCH, IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL MEETING.

The seventh annual meeting of the Ulster Branch of the Irish Nurses' Association was held in Belfast on March 13th, in the hall lent by the Deaf and Dumb Institute. There was a representative attendance, and many matrons were present.

The President, Lady Hermione Blackwood, presided.

Miss Workman (Hon. Sec.), read the report, which stated that there had been three excursions during the year, which had been well attended; and two lectures had kindly been given by Dr. J. C. Rankin and Prof. Sinclair—Dr. Marion Andrews had also given an address on the Insurance Act. These lectures had attracted such large audiences, that next winter it is proposed to have a course of six. Nurses present were asked to suggest subjects for the lectures.

The Treasurer reported a balance in hand of £12 14s.; and this being so, it was decided for the future to reduce the annual subscription of the members of the Executive Committee to 10s. per annum.

Miss Melville (Matron of the County Antrim Hospital) and Miss Johnson (formerly Matron of Banbridge Infirmary) were elected as Vice-Presidents of this branch of the Association.

The former members of the Executive and Amusements Committee were all re-elected.

Lady Hermione Blackwood (in the chair) then spoke of the meeting to be held in London, on the evening of March 14th, to protest against the misuse of nurses' uniform; and invited the members to give their views on the subject.

Miss Duffin said she had made inquiries from a London police court official, and from his reply it did not seem to be a fact that there was much abuse of nurses' uniform; and this gentleman stated also that in his experience a woman in nurses' uniform could go into the worst of slums with safety, when others could not do so. Miss Duffin considered it would be a very great misfortune if nurses were discouraged from wearing out-door uniform, and said she understood the object of the meeting in London was to propose this; and, therefore, she was not in sympathy with a resolution on the subject being sent to the meeting in London.

Miss Bostock (Lady Superintendent, Royal Victoria Hospital), and others, said that they understood that the object of the meeting in London was to obtain *protection* of nurses' out-door uniform, and not to abolish it, the majority of members present agreeing that this also was their view of the matter.

Miss Newman (Superintendent of the Nurses' Home, Frederick Street) proposed the following resolution, which was passed with three dissentients:

"The Ulster Branch of the 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."

After further voting, it was agreed that this resolution should be sent to the convener of the meeting to be held in London.

Miss Duffin then read an admirable paper, written by Miss Rogers (late of Leicester), on the International Nursing Congress at Cologne. The nurses were greatly interested in the paper.

The announcement of the Nurses' National Council Conference, to be held in Dublin on June 4th, 5th and 6th, was made; and all present were warmly invited to attend it, and to make it known to their friends. Miss Workman stated that she hoped to arrange with the railway company for cheap fares and day excursions.

Votes of thanks to Miss Duffin, to Miss Workman (the indefatigable and energetic hon. secretary), and to the chairman, were then passed.

Many questions, *re* the Dublin Conference were asked over the tea-cups, at the conclusion of the meeting; and many expressed their intention of attending it.

## SOCIAL SERVICE.

### "SUPPER TIME TALKS WITH TRANSPORT WORKERS."

By EVELINE WRIGHT CROPPER.

(Concluded from page 213).

With many of the workers, especially the dockers and crane drivers who load and unload ships, the great difficulty is the extreme irregularity of the work. Sometimes for weeks they can earn little or nothing and then a rush will come when they have to work for thirty-six hours at a stretch or even longer if they can. Such a thing is excusable, of course, in cases of dire emergency, but it becomes shameful when the only interest at stake is gain. How would the shareholders in a shipping company feel if they could see a man come home at midday looking feverish and thoroughly ill, and hear him say, "I was working all yesterday and all last night and this morning, and they wanted me to go on, but I couldn't. I had to give in and come home"?

Tell an employer that it is cruelty to keep men at work for so many hours and he may answer that it is their own fault. He would much rather, he says, employ two shifts, paying each set of men at the ordinary rate, than employ a smaller number for a longer time, paying them at a much higher rate for overtime. It is their own look out, he says, for refusing to have extra men taken on at busy times. His defence has some truth in it, but the root of the matter is that wages are so low that the only way the men can earn a living wage is by working overtime for

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)