

paper, and thanked Miss Brodrick personally for the great pleasure her paper had given him.

The speaker said we were faced by a great national danger, and should deal with it openly and fearlessly. Doctors and nurses could open the eyes of the public to a pressing danger, and district nurses had special opportunities. They should know something of syphilis as a frequent cause of abortion, and might have opportunities of explaining to patients the nature of the disease from which they suffered. Dire results were due to patients hiding their condition. In the early stages syphilis was absolutely curable, but patients did not seek efficient treatment, and if it were allowed to go on for a short time it became incurable. Nurses must remember that the disease was contagious, and there was a certain amount of danger, but no micro-organism was so easily killed as that of syphilis if taken in hand before the system was affected.

One of the most stringent rules at the Westmoreland Lock Hospital was that no patient must ever wear a pin. A nurse had once been infected by this means, and after twenty years of suffering the disease had proved fatal.

With the treatment now at the disposal of the medical profession, with improved legislation, and an educated public opinion, the speaker considered the cases of syphilis might be reduced by 50 per cent. in the next thirty years, but if we went on as at present for another twenty years the state of things would be most serious.

Mrs. Day, Poor Law Guardian, Cork, said that both papers had dealt with the effect rather than the primary cause of venereal diseases, which was prostitution, and this again often originated in economic conditions. Eighty per cent. of women were on the streets through no wish of their own, but were driven there by grinding poverty. Again ninety-five per cent. of the girls caught in the White Slave Traffic went into it innocently. It was not right that there should be a slave class. Do not, said Mrs. Day, issue red tickets to the woman who walks the streets and let the man who pays her go free.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick thought the question should not be dealt with altogether from the moral side. For nurses it was rather one of the public health questions. She referred to the duty of hospital authorities to see that adequate instruction was given to nurses concerning protection from infection. It was a tremendous danger, and there had been many tragedies amongst nurses. She thought Matrons should try to get this teaching given quite early in their training. She spoke of the instruction through the eye, and the wonderful wax models shewing the effects of diseases of the venereal group, made by a nun, and exhibited at the Lindenburg Hospital, Cologne, to members of the International Nursing Congress. To see such models would impress the horrors resulting from vice upon the mind.

Miss Patterson spoke of her experience in the

out-patient department of a London hospital, and thought that every hospital should supply gloves and overalls for use in suspicious or infectious cases. A pamphlet was now given to out-patients in this hospital, who were syphilitic, warning them of the nature of their disease.

Miss Creighton spoke of conditions in India, after which Miss Brodrick and Dr. Moore replied.

MASSAGE, TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

Mrs. Strong presided at the Session of Massage, Training and Education in the Small Hall, when Dr. Barrie Lambert read a paper on the "Training of the Masseuse," and Mrs. Hoghton Stewart dealt with "Professional Ideals with regard to Massage Workers," the discussion being ably opened by Miss L. Despard.

We shall publish a detailed account of this Session next week, with those which were held on Thursday, June 5th.

RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE.

The one Resolution of the Conference was passed on Thursday at the Session on the State Registration of Nurses. It was proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and seconded by Mrs. Strong, President of the Scottish Nurses' Association, and carried enthusiastically with two dissentients—Matrons trained in England—so we may take the Irish vote as solid.

RESOLUTION.

This meeting desires to record its earnest conviction that it is absolutely necessary, both in the interests of the professional status of trained nurses, and of the public whom they serve, that provision should be made for their Registration by the State, and that such Registration should be under the supervision of a Central Professional Authority, and that admission to the Register, of those who have fulfilled the prescribed conditions, should be by the single portal of a State Examination.

This meeting regrets that the Prime Minister has not, so far, found time for the discussion of the question in the House of Commons, and urges that facilities may be given to the second reading of the Nurses' Registration Bill at the earliest possible date.

In a leading article on the Nursing Conference the *Irish Times* says "To-day nursing is recognized as a valuable auxiliary to the medical profession; it has become a distinct, honourable and organized profession of its own. In these circumstances the withholding of a legal status from the nursing profession cannot be justified on any reasonable grounds. For their own sake and still more for the sake of the public to which they do such valuable service, nurses ought to receive the State recognition which is implied in State Registration. We entirely agree with the resolution on this subject which the Conference passed at its meeting."

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