

of the ratepayers and children alike if the nurses could be utilized in a systematic manner in connection with school medical inspection. She also urged that Insurance Committees should come to terms with voluntary nursing associations to care for consumptives. The speaker emphasized the value of co-operation between voluntary and official organizations in regard to the nursing of the poor in rural districts. Each village, or rather group of villages, required a midwife, a nurse for the infirm and old, a nurse to help in the school cases, a nurse for the accidents, illnesses, and ailments of the insured, as well as the uninsured. There was no reason why one and the same person, a properly trained nurse, should not fulfil all these duties.

Miss Joseph (a guardian of the Williton Union and a member of the Somerset Insurance Committee) said the most hopeful work of the guardians was the care of the children, and they should subscribe generously to the training of midwives. She moved:—"That to secure the efficient care of the sick and the prevention of disease, it is essential there shall be co-ordination and co-operation between voluntary and official organizations, and that it is desirable that a conference shall be held in each county, consisting of representatives of each of the agencies concerned, to determine how best to secure these objects within their area."

Mrs. Andrews (Local Government Board Inspector) gave cordial support to Miss Stephenson's effort for co-operation between voluntary and State bodies, because they must beware of any overlapping. More especially she would emphasise the need of maintaining and of improving the standard of the nursing they gave.

The President said the ideal they should aim at in the country districts was that every village or group of villages should have its nurse available for all purposes of nursing. That was true economy and would be found true efficiency in the end. How were they to attain that ideal? It would be best attained by relying mainly on their nursing associations. Their County Nursing Associations in many cases were very considerably developed, but in order to develop further they required the subsidies of public authorities. From the Somerset County Council point of view three subjects had been referred to them by recent Acts which involved nursing. There was first the Midwives' Act, and the Council had decided to subsidise the County Nursing Association to enable them to train a certain number of midwives for the county. Then there was the school medical

inspection, and there they would have been willing to have relied on the County Nursing Association nurses if they had been universal and willing to do all the Council wanted, but they had to provide special nurses for that unpleasant task. They had a conference between two bodies the other day where it was decided that as far as possible the same woman should attend to the school-children and the tuberculosis cases, and they would endeavour in every way to carry out the principle of co-operation and concentration. There should, in every county, be a conference between representatives of the various authorities and associations interested in the question, but before that conference met it was desirable that a proper memorandum should be drawn up showing the powers and duties that were vested in the various authorities in respect to the question in order that everybody who attended the Conference might have a clear idea of the situation and the difficulties that had to be met. The resolution was carried.

Two meetings of interest between Queen's Nurses and representatives of approved societies under the Insurance Act have recently been held at Brighton and Leicester. From the Nursing Associations in both towns offers have been made to nurse members of approved societies for 3d. a head. In Brighton it was calculated that an income of £444 11s. 6d. would thus be available, and it was decided to ask the Insurance Commissioners whether approved societies were entitled to deduct the 3d. per head from their sick benefit funds. At Leicester it was reported that very little response had been received to 240 circulars, only 14 approved societies replying, and as the finances of the Leicester Nursing Association demanded immediate attention if the work was to go on, it was proposed on and after November 1st to charge all insured persons 6d. for each visit by a nurse.

The Conference on the "Nursing of Insured Persons" convened by the Association of Approved Societies, to be held in London on November 26th, should prove a useful occasion at which to discuss the various points at issue between approved societies and nursing organizations. Miss K. J. Stevenson's claim that a thoroughly trained nurse-midwife should be available in every village or group of villages, is the only standard which will be acceptable to those who are compelled to pay for services during sickness, or for which an approved society will receive full value for a *per capita* subscription.

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