

registration of nurses on April 28th that the association was represented by Dr. MacGregor Robertson and Miss Dow, and at the nursing conference in Dublin in June by Mrs. Strong, Miss Tisdale, Miss Wright and Miss Rae. The position of State registration remained, unfortunately, very much as it was, chiefly due to the opposition of some hospital authorities in London. An important fact which had been revealed at the deputation, however, was that the medical and nursing professions in Scotland and Ireland appeared to be unanimous in their desire for State registration. Mr. Asquith encouraged the deputation to persevere in their propaganda for educating public opinion on this important subject. Their representatives at the Dublin Conference reported that there was an entirely unopposed desire on the part of the members of the Conference for State registration. The membership of the association had been increased during the year by 116 new members. Miss Dow, hon. treasurer, submitted the financial report, which stated that a sum of £130 was at the credit of the association in the bank. The reports were adopted.

The office-bearers were re-elected. Miss Vandles and Mrs. Virtue were elected to fill two vacancies on the executive.

Dr. Hamilton Marr, Edinburgh, in the course of a brief address, said that it was a matter for praise that the energies of the association were not wasted in small parochial channels, but were concentrated on one great object—the establishment of a one portal system for at first all the nurses in the British Isles, and ultimately of the nurses of the Empire. It seemed an anomaly in this enlightened twentieth century that the dignity of the nursing profession should require to be safeguarded in any way.

The President said that they must do everything in their power to help forward the cause of legislation for nurses, whereby uniformity of education might be enforced and do away with some of the ignorance and unfitness which too often existed. State registration was and always had been the main object of the association. What they demanded was an equal chance for all. The State, by its independent examinations following upon its curriculum, might grant diplomas, thereby defining the qualified nurse. Surely a nurse should be as worthy of her calling as a soldier or sailor and be equally protected in her status; having a State uniform, any infringement of its use would be attended with heavy penalty. At present anyone could wear a nurse's uniform

with impunity—sometimes using it for disgraceful purposes as well as for competition in work. There was not a nurse who did not feel the injustice of the position. Those who were present at the Dublin meetings in connection with the Annual Conference of the National Council of Trained Nurses must have been gratified at not hearing a dissentient voice in regard to the necessity of State registration for nurses; all were convinced of its being the only means of lifting nursing out of its chaotic condition and placing it upon a firm footing. With such a strong concensus of opinion it should encourage them to greater effort.

After the business was over tea was served to the members, and Mr. S. Halley entertained them with an organ recital, which was greatly appreciated.

THE POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Previous to assembling at their Second Annual Dinner, at the Hotel Cecil, on the evening of Saturday last, the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association held its Annual Meeting, at which Miss Stansfeld (Chief Lady Inspector) presided, and expressed her pleasure at meeting the matrons. The meeting was largely attended. Miss Cockrell (Marylebone Infirmary), the Treasurer, read the financial statement; and Miss C. Todd (St. James' Infirmary) presented the year's report. The following officers were re-elected by ballot: President, Miss Barton; Hon. Treasurer, Miss Cockrell; Hon. Secretary, Miss C. Todd; and Assist. Secretary, Miss Alsop (Kensington Infirmary). The following ladies were elected to form the Committee: Miss Elma Smith (Hendon); Miss Mowatt (Whitechapel); Miss Dowbggin (Edmonton), Miss Hannaford (Poplar and Stepney), Miss Inglis (Shoreditch), and Miss Dodds (Bethnal Green). The four following members were co-opted to represent the provinces: Miss M. Smith (Chorlton, Manchester), North; Miss Masters (Leicester), Midlands; Miss Myles (Brighton), South; and Miss Williams (Cardiff), Wales.

MISS BARTON'S THANKS.

Miss Barton said:—

I have to thank you for the honour you have done me, in again electing me President of our Association. It sounds very trite and commonplace to say I wish you had chosen some one better and worthier—but I really mean it, and wish I could do more justice to the Association; but, though I have the cause so greatly at heart, there is so very little time to devote to work outside one's immediate "daily round." Life seems to grow more strenuous, and the day is all too short for what one would wish to accomplish.

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