

The Compromise Resolution, on being put to the vote, was lost by 63 votes to 36, and Mr. Davies' amendment was carried unanimously when put to the meeting as a substantive motion.

STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE.

After the main resolution was passed, the following resolution, moved by Mr. J. C. Fox (Bristol Operatives Trade and Provident Society), and seconded by Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., was carried with three dissentients. Sir Victor Horsley in a brief but eloquent speech referred to the critical state of nursing in the country when even the large voluntary hospitals found difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of probationers of the best type. He hoped that a strong committee would be formed to go into the details of the arrangements for the nursing of insured persons, and that eventually a real reformation of present conditions, and the registration of trained nurses by the State might take place.

RESOLUTION.

That a Standing Joint Committee of Insurance Committees, Approved Societies, and Nursing Associations be formed to consider such arrangements for the nursing of insured persons as may from time to time be suggested, with power to add to their number.

Nominations were received in the room and the following twelve persons elected:—

DELEGATES OF INSURANCE COMMITTEES.

Mr. F. Horler, Stockport Insurance Committee.
Miss Z. Puxley, London Insurance Committee.
Mr. A. White, Coventry Insurance Committee.
Mrs. Heywood Lonsdale, Shropshire Insurance Committee.

DELEGATES OF APPROVED SOCIETIES.

Mr. R. J. Davies, Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees.
Mr. Alban Gordon, Domestic Servants' Approved Society.
Mr. A. Bispham, National Society of Operative Printers.
Mr. C. T. Green, Linen and Woollen Drapers Approved Society.

TO REPRESENT TRAINED NURSES.

Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.C.S., F.R.S.,
Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, National Council of Trained Nurses.
Miss Amy Hughes, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.
Miss Stephenson, Wiltshire Nursing Association.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENT SERVICES.

The Executive of the York Workpeople's Hospital Fund have decided to organise a testimonial to Sister Hannah Oldfield, Sister Lily Richards, and Sister Hutchings, who are resigning their positions on the staff of the York County Hospital, in recognition of their excellent services, kindness, and courtesy.

THE M.A.B. AND THE SHORTAGE OF NURSES.

The question of the shortage of nurses again occupied the attention of the Metropolitan Asylums Board at a meeting on November 29th. The Children's Hospitals Committee reported that it had decided to reduce by one year the age at which probationer nurses might be engaged at children's hospitals. The present minimum was 19 years, but difficulties had been experienced in obtaining a sufficient number of candidates of this age, although applications were sometimes received from candidates of eighteen years of age who were in every way suitable. The Committee thought it likely that one cause of the shortage of nurses was the fact that the career could not be entered upon early enough; healthily-situated children's hospitals, such as Queen Mary's, might serve a useful purpose in allowing young women to start their training at an age when many were desirous of beginning work. The Committee learned that probationers were taken at 18 years of age at several children's hospitals, including the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, the Alexandra Hospital for Children, Queen Square, London, the Birmingham and Midland Free Hospital for Sick Children, the Children's Hospital, Cheltenham, and the Royal Liverpool County Hospital for Children. It would be arranged that probationers of 18 years of age would start work on the girls' side of the hospital during their first year.

Admiral Henderson, at the end of the ordinary business, brought forward a motion proposing that in order to give nurses greater security of tenure and to avoid dismissing them when an epidemic had been dealt with, certain secondary infectious diseases like measles and whooping cough should be made notifiable from time to time by special order, according to the accommodation available at the Board's hospitals. Admiral Henderson urged that the hospitals would be conducted more economically if they were always full and that measles and whooping cough were sufficiently serious in their effects to be worth institutional treatment. The policy of discharging nurses as soon as an epidemic had been dealt with had a great deal to do, in his opinion, with the present shortage. It should be possible to arrange with some of the borough councils to make secondary infectious diseases notifiable in their areas at certain times, so that the Board might regulate the supply of cases to its hospitals.

Mr. Wetenhall, who seconded, said that to deal with the scarlet fever epidemic nurses had had to be drafted into the hospitals having had less than three years' probation. It was the best that could be done. It was necessary to take into the asylums service to fill their places not only nurses who were untrained, but women who were little better than charwomen—the wives of attendants and so on.

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