

inspection of Nursing Homes under the auspices of the London County Council, and Mrs. Fenwick replied in the affirmative. She thought, given professional inspection, that it would be welcomed by the proprietors of the best class of Nursing Homes.

In reply to the Chairman, Mrs. Fenwick said that the National Council of Trained Nurses represented about 6,000 Matrons and Nurses. In reply to further questions from the Chairman, she considered that Homes with one or two beds should be registered, and pointed out that the majority of Nursing Homes maintained from six to ten beds, and only a few as many as thirty. She thought that they should be registered in the names of the proprietors. She did not think that many doctors were proprietors of Homes. More usually a doctor supported one special Home, by advising patients to enter it, but was not financially responsible for it.

Questioned by the Chairman as to the desirability of registering houses in which doctors received patients, Mrs. Fenwick said that the National Council had not considered the question. She was of opinion that it might occasion a good deal of opposition.

Lord Alexander Thynne remarked that the proposals of the National Council went much further than those of the London County Council. In regard to the objection of the former to disciplinary powers being exercised over Nursing Homes by the Borough Councils, Mrs. Fenwick said she thought there was a consensus of opinion that the London County Council was the proper authority, as the central body could organize inspection on a professional basis. Trained nurses objected to inspection by unprofessional persons, and considered that such inspection would be useless.

Lord Cheylesmore asked Mrs. Fenwick what she would consider a suitable salary for an Inspector. Mrs. Fenwick replied that she thought it should be a thoroughly good living wage—from £200—£250 per annum. These salaries and expenses might be based on the same scale as those of the Nursing Inspectors under the Local Government Board.

On the question of the employment as nurses by some Homes of unskilled persons, Mrs. Fenwick said that the whole staff would not be untrained, but a large proportion might be. Doctors could not be expected to enter into the details of the domestic and nursing arrangements. The Homes should be efficiently organized by the professional proprietors.

In connection with the proposal that the

Council support the registration of trained nurses by the State, a member remarked that the Nurses' Registration Bill had been rejected by the House of Commons. Mrs. Fenwick pointed out that this was not the case. A Bill had in 1908 been passed without a division by the House of Lords with the support of Government, but the House of Commons had not yet had the opportunity of considering it.

Mr. Davies said that he understood the National Council objected to Nursing Homes being classed with Massage Houses, and that they wished to be inspected by properly qualified Inspectors. It was proposed, under the Bill, to separate the Nursing Homes from the Massage Establishments.

The Chairman having again thanked the Deputation for the trouble they had taken in preparing so exhaustive a Report, they withdrew.

THE VALUE OF STATE REGISTRATION.

Two articles have recently appeared in the *Aberdeen Free Press* purporting to deal with the State Registration of Trained Nurses, but giving a most misleading account of the situation, and endeavouring to persuade nurses that the examination instituted by the Scotch Local Government Board, for poor law nurses and fever nurses, "promises to do away with the need for State Registration." This is most fallacious. In the first place the examinations conducted by the Scotch Local Government Board are restricted to the nurses under its control, and, secondly, examinations are only one part of the State scheme. The effect of the passing of a Nurses' Registration Act would be to give to nurses who obtained admission to the State Register the *prestige of legal status*, with the protected title of Registered Nurse, and would at once differentiate them from women who had no right to the title. In the second place registered nurses would help to elect the governing body, which would maintain nursing educational standards, and enforce discipline in their ranks, and thus would help to control the profession of which they are members. To say therefore that "State Registration in all its essential features, and in the most convenient and economical form, is now an actual fact for poor law and fever nurses," is to mis-state the case, and these articles, evidently written by a special pleader for the L.G.B., show how little the real value of a Registration Act is appreciated by him.

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