

## THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, London, W., on Friday, July 18th, at 4 p.m. The President of the Society, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair, and was supported on the platform by Lady Strachey, Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., the Right Hon. R. C. Munro Ferguson, M.P., Dr. Chapple, M.P., and Miss B. Kent, and Miss E. B. Kingsford, the proposers of the Resolutions. There was a very large attendance of members.

### THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Hon. Secretary presented a comprehensive and satisfactory Report and the Audited Accounts. The Report stated:—"In presenting the Eleventh Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, we have again to record the increasing urgency in the interests of the community of the standardisation of nursing education, and the recognition by the State of those who attain the prescribed standard. On all sides the demand for the work of nurses is broadening. They are needed not only to render personal service to the sick, but for educational, administrative, social, and preventive work; in short, wherever the idea of health conservation is being worked out, in accordance with the principles and ideals advocated by Miss Florence Nightingale more than half a century ago. It has been well said that the nurse is the 'foster mother' of the race, 'wherever and whenever there is life to be tended, nourished, or nursed, educated or saved, whether the life be yet unborn, or newborn, or senile, or ill, there is the field for womanhood exercising its great function of foster motherhood.'

"It is evident that to fulfil the obligations imposed upon it the nursing profession should be recruited from the ranks of women of the highest type, of good education, broad sympathies, personally qualified, capable of assimilating the special knowledge, and of acquiring the technical skill which will fit them for their high vocation.

"On the other hand, the lack of legal status, and of the standardisation of nursing education, is acting most prejudicially both on the quality and on the numbers of candidates applying for training. Both parents and daughters in deciding upon a career are influenced not only by the financial prospects, but by the prestige of the profession to be adopted and the lack of any recognition of the arduous training undergone, and the association of trained nurses in the minds of the public with the unskilled and semi-skilled, with shoplifters and white slave traffickers, through the continual adoption of the nurses' uniform for unjustifiable purposes, makes careful parents hesitate to allow their daughters to enter a profession so dishonoured. The danger to the public

from this disorganisation, and the great injustice to thoroughly trained nurses, whose work is indispensable to the community, needs no emphasis, and it behoves all those who desire to protect the public from fraudulent nurses, and to safeguard the honour of the nursing profession, to work unceasingly until the Nurses' Registration Act is placed on the Statute Book."

### MEMBERSHIP.

It was reported that 125 new members had been elected during the year, bringing up the number of those who have joined the Society to 3,310. In Scotland and Ireland the Nurses are associated in various Societies, and are practically unanimous in their demand for State Registration, as the managers of hospitals, training schools, and nursing associations, and also members of the medical profession support their demand.

### THE BILL.

The Nurses' Registration Bill, influentially backed by members of all parties, had again been introduced by the Right Honourable R. C. Munro-Ferguson into the House of Commons.

### THE DEPUTATION.

Failing a place in the ballot for the Bill, a very influential Deputation of delegates from the constituent societies, of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, had waited upon the Prime Minister, and asked that facilities should be given by the Government for its consideration. The Report gave a synopsis of the speeches, and of the Prime Minister's reply—in which he owned he did not profess "to have a special knowledge of the subject which raised important issues for the community at large, to which he was not indifferent." He stated he was very much impressed with the arguments put forward, and that he recognised the representative and authoritative character of the Deputation; but he was obliged to have regard to the exigencies of the Parliamentary position. He suggested that the medical and nursing professions should arrive at something more nearly approaching a concordat than was the case at present; and said if this were attained the Deputation would have no more ardent sympathisers than the Government.

Analysis of the list of those supporting the opposition made evident the unrepresentative and circumscribed character of the opposition to registration, focussed by the Central Hospital Council for London, on which nurses had no representation; and emphasised that in regard to a concordat there is complete agreement between all the organised medical and nursing associations supporting the movement in England, Scotland and Ireland, and that it was impossible to obtain the support of individuals presumably conscientiously opposed to it.

### RESOLUTIONS.

The Society had during the year carried on an active campaign of propaganda. A Resolution

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)