

QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE.

CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS OF ENGLAND, WALES, AND IRELAND.

The Conference which took place at Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, on March 4th, was very well attended. The papers read were interesting, and the discussion abundant and brisk.

Mr. Franklin, who proved an able and genial chairman, briefly outlined the principle of co-operation between Public Authorities and voluntary Nursing Associations. The great advantage, he said, of these Conferences was the getting in touch with bodies in connection with nursing the Poor, whereby they were able to arrive at a system combining the best voluntary and compulsory methods.

The Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse (Chairman of the Somerset C.C.), Miss Amy Hughes (General Superintendent), and Miss Ross (Inspector Central Division of England) all spoke on this subject, the keynote of their remarks being the extreme difficulty of getting all the bodies connected with Public Health to work smoothly, owing to various causes.

The following remarks of Mr. Hobhouse may be taken as a sample for all. He had recently called a Conference at Taunton of all bodies—Public and Private—interested in nursing in the County. These included: 1, The County Council; 2, County Insurance Committee; 3, the Sanitary Authority; 4, Board of Guardians; 5, County and District Nursing Association; 6, Local Hospital and County Medical Association. The powers of these bodies were found to be very limited in some directions and overlapping in others, and much required to be done to secure a properly organised system of nursing. This Conference at Taunton concluded its deliberations by passing the following resolutions:—

(a) That Voluntary Hospitals should be worked in close connection and co-operation with the Nursing Associations.

(b) That trained Nurses should be provided so that there might be one accessible to every village in the County, the County Council aiding in the training of midwives through its Education funds.

(c) That Health lectures should be given by trained Nurses at the public expense, together with mothers' classes in infant care, and lessons in hygiene to the school children. A rider was added to the effect that the Government be urged to make arrangements to enable Insurance Committees to pay for the nursing of insured persons.

NURSING UNDER THE INSURANCE ACT.

This was the second item on the agenda. The great hindrance to the smooth working of the Act in this respect seems to be the difficulty of finance—a very serious difficulty indeed.

Several speakers gave their views on this point,

and all agreed that subsidies must be paid by the Insurance Commission for nursing the Insured sick.

Mrs. Bond, Hon. Secretary of the Leicester District Nursing Association, recorded the dismal fact that during the last two years the expenditure had exceeded the income by £350! Last November the Committee of the Association decided very reluctantly that owing to the serious condition of the finances, and failing to obtain any help for the nursing of the insured sick under Section 21, payment at the rate of 6d. per visit would have to be made by the insured persons themselves for general nursing. She explained that in the County it was more difficult to make arrangements for the nursing of insured persons, because the nursing is not all under one central Committee.

We heartily concur with Mrs. Bond's opinion that nursing should be considered a supplement to the Medical Benefit, and that to obtain the full advantages of Medical Benefit there must be a nursing service available for all insured persons. She also considers that it is most essential that the standard of nursing should be raised, and more nurses provided.

Although State Registration for Nurses was not mentioned, it was easy to apprehend that many advocates of that wholesome doctrine were present!

Mrs. Heywood Lonsdale (Shropshire) referred to the scheme lately proposed by the joint Committee of Approved Societies, Insurance Committees and Nursing Associations, more especially to that portion of it dealing with finance. The suggestion is that there should be a Parliamentary grant to provide the whole cost of nursing insured persons.

SCHOOL NURSING.

Dr. F. H. Morison (Medical Officer of Health for Cumberland), read a very informative paper on this subject, by which he illustrated that this most important Department of Public Health is in a very satisfactory and progressive condition.

Miss Crowther, of the Queen's Institute, also spoke.

NURSING IN WORKHOUSES.

Miss Fry, of the Somerset County Nursing Association, was the only speaker on this subject. She dealt with the new Order which has been issued by the Local Government Board, the substance of which is that Poor Law Authorities must co-operate with the District Nursing Associations, and that, in connection with the smaller workhouse wards, when a trained nurse is not continuously employed, the Guardians must provide that a district nurse is within easy reach of the Indoor Poor.

The Local Government Board Inspector, when questioned upon the essential points of the *training* of the nurse, replied that he did not exactly know what the requirement was! The ambiguous wording of the Order runs thus: "Training sufficient to render her a fit and proper person."

Another glaring example of the need for State Registration, when the term "trained Nurse"

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