

that registrationists were sick to death of the ancient document from which he had quoted.

After a recent letter in the *Times* from Lord Knutsford quoting eleven Matrons of London Hospitals as agreeing with him, he had called upon eight of those mentioned, including the Matron of his own hospital, whom he knew to be in favour of registration. His visits were most interesting. The Matron of one of the largest hospitals knew nothing whatever about registration and its advantages, but, though she was against it, the nurses in the same institution held a kind of gala festival when they heard that the Bill had passed its first reading in the House of Commons. Lord Knutsford did not know the injustice done to trained nurses for lack of registration.

Lord Knutsford pointed out that he was not to blame in regard to the Matron whose support Sir Victor Horsley claimed. He had her signature in writing. Sir Victor remarked that was ten years ago. People did not go on living without learning. At least some people learnt. The movement for State Registration was a movement for public health, and in the interests of the nursing profession.

The Chairman then put the resolution to the meeting and declared it carried by a very large majority.

THE PROPOSED L.C.C. REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

The next paper presented was one by Miss L. M. Stower on the proposed registration of Nursing Homes, read by Miss Gertrude Maude. A considerable portion of it was a lament that the scheme had failed which she had proposed at the Conference last year, for the formation of a strong association for the protection of the nursing homes from the malicious attacks on them by the public, and which would be of value to the public in trying to raise the standard of the nursing in the homes.

Miss Stower said that she obtained great support from most influential people, lay and professional, but though she sent out over 300 signed letters to Nursing Homes in the United Kingdom she only received 8 replies. The Association endeavoured to secure incorporation from the Board of Trade, but this was not granted, as they had no following.

In regard to inspection by the L.C.C., all that the Nursing Home proprietors would get for their £2 2s. was a certificate that they were not using their houses for immoral purposes. If they had formed a really strong association this indignity would not have been placed upon them.

The work which Miss Stower endeavoured to do had a very useful object, but evidently this form of organisation was not popular with those whose co-operation she desired.

CO-OPERATION AND AFFILIATION IN THE TRAINING OF NURSES.

The last question before this Session, co-operation and affiliation in the training of nurses, was dealt with by Miss Edmondson, Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen. In connection with

co-operation the speaker advocated the formation of a British Nurses Association, on the same lines as the British Medical Association, a British Nurses Association was however founded in 1887!

Miss Edmondson said she would be in favour of some system of registration if they could get the perfect article, but not after three years' training in a general hospital only. At present to obtain mental and fever training a nurse must spend another three years in each branch and then she would not have midwifery or massage. She thought that through affiliation a comprehensive training might be accomplished in five years.

Miss Pye, Secretary National Union of Trained Nurses, explained its organisation, and Dr. Goodall pointed out that the Nurses Registration Bill made provision for co-operative training.

The session terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair proposed by Sir Victor Horsley.

A "PATRIOTIC" SESSION.

The chair at the next Session was taken by Colonel Bruce Skinner, M.V.O., who said that in time of war the State could not afford to provide a fraction of the trained nursing that would be required. It must be supplemented by First Aid.

Lady Perrott, Lady Superintendent-in-Chief of the Nursing Corps and Divisions of St. John Ambulance Brigade, read the first paper on the work of the Brigade. The object of the Ambulance Department was a two-fold one: for service in peace as represented by the St. John's Ambulance Association, and for service in war as represented by the St. John Voluntary Aid Detachments.

Mr. James Cantlie, M.A., F.R.C.S., read a paper on the work of the Red Cross Society, in which he referred to the great dearth of trained nurses and to the necessity for supplementing their work by the Red Cross Society in time of war.

Miss Hilda Sewart presented a paper in which she vigorously attacked the system on which the V.A.D.'s are run.

RESOLUTION.

Miss Sewart moved a resolution, seconded by Miss Joseph,

"That this Conference respectfully petitions the Advisory Sub-Committee of the British Red Cross Society to receive a deputation of trained nurses working for the Voluntary Aid Movement in order that they may have an opportunity of placing before the Committee various suggestions which, if carried into effect, would, in the opinion of this conference, enhance the efficiency and generally improve the standard of nursing work in the Women's Voluntary Aid Detachments of this country." This was carried unanimously.

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart's paper on "Women's Work in the War," was communicated.

On the evening of Tuesday the Committee issued an invitation to a reception at the Rooms of the Royal Society of Medicine, when Sir George Savage, M.D., F.R.C.P., gave an address.

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