

here this morning is a great encouragement to us.

On behalf of the Members of the Conference, my Lord Mayor, I thank you very heartily.

The Lord Mayor then vacated the chair, which, on his departure was taken by Miss Musson.

#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS OF WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE.

As President of the Conference Miss Musson said:—

The Lord Mayor having done us the great honour of attending this morning in order to welcome Members of our Conference to this City, it only remains for me to extend a warm welcome from Members of the General Hospital Birmingham Nurses' League, and on their behalf to thank all those who have come from a distance to join in our deliberations.

We are very pleased that the Midland Association of Matrons and Superintendents, and the recently formed League of Queen's Hospital Birmingham Nurses join with us in giving you a hearty welcome to the Midlands.

For the information of those who are not Members of our Association I would mention that the National Council of Trained Nurses is still quite young, but it already includes nineteen Associations of fully trained Nurses, including the Queen's Hospital Birmingham Nurses' League and the Southwark Nurses' League, whom to-day we have pleasure of greeting for the first time, as members. The Council is affiliated to the International Council of Nurses and the National Councils of eight other countries.

Proper conditions of training, better remuneration when trained, and a voice in our own government, are all necessary if the right sort of women are to be attracted to the work. It behoves us, who have the welfare of our profession at heart, to hold fast together, to unite in opposing any lowering of standard, and to endeavour, by concentration of effort, to build up the profession on a broad and stable basis.

It was Bishop Westcott who said, "An ideal may seem unattainable, but when it is distinctly acknowledged as the object of aspiration, it will be found close at hand."

#### THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

Then followed speeches on the State Registration of Trained Nurses by Mr. Gilbert Barling, F.R.C.S., Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, who strongly supported the principle and said that when he was invited to address the Conference he found it impossible to decline, because he had been beholden all his professional life for the invaluable assistance of nurses in the work he had had to carry out.

#### RESOLUTION.

The Vice-Chancellor moved the following Resolution:—

"That in view of the grave injury at present caused to Public Health and to Nursing by the absence of a Statutory Register of qualified Nurses,

this Conference of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland respectfully urges upon the Government to give facilities for the Second Reading of the Nurses' Registration Bill introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. Chapple, the First Reading of which was carried by a majority of 228 on March 3rd of this year."

It was seconded by Miss G. A. Rogers, and warmly supported by Mrs. George Cadbury, Miss K. E. Richmond (who opened the discussion), Mr. Lionel Stretton, Miss C. A. Barling, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

No one had anything to say in opposition, and the Resolution was carried unanimously and enthusiastically.

#### THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE CHAIR.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick read a paper on "The Florence Nightingale Chair of Nursing and Health," the second subject down for consideration. We shall fully report the morning's proceedings in future issues.

#### THE MEETING OF THE GRAND COUNCIL.

A business meeting of the Grand Council was held in the Vestry Room of the New Central Hall, Birmingham, on the afternoon of June 9th. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair.

The Council approved resolutions *re* State Registration of Nurses, the appointment of women police officers, and the medical inspection of children under five, to be moved at the annual meeting of the National Council of Women at Bristol in October, for which its support was solicited.

Miss Breay and Miss Cutler were appointed the representatives of the Council for the ensuing year on the National Council of Women.

The Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League, and the Southwark Infirmary Nurses' League, which had applied for affiliation, were admitted to membership.

The Queen's Hospital League nominated Miss Ashford as one of its delegates, and the Royal Free Hospital Miss Pearce. Both nominees were elected.

Other business was deferred for fuller discussion.

#### RECEPTION AT BOTANICAL GARDENS.

On the evening of Tuesday a delightful reception was given at the Botanical Gardens, which, owing to the unpropitious weather, was held in the beautiful conservatories. The guests were received by Miss Musson, President of the General Hospital Nurses' League; Miss Buckingham, President of the Queen's Hospital Nurses' League; and Miss de Chaste'ain, Hon. Secretary of the Midland Matrons' Association. A charming programme of music was rendered, and Mr. Percy Edgar recited with great versatility, his Hints to the Medical Profession causing much laughter. There was a large attendance of guests—matrons, nurses, and their friends, in spite of the weather, appearing in very gay mood, and most dainty refreshments were served in the most hospitable manner.

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