

### THE REUNION POSTPONED.

We beg to announce that, by request of a large number of registrationists desiring to be present, and who cannot attend on the 26th inst., the Committee has decided to postpone the Reunion until the autumn, when the holiday season will be over.

### A STATE-AIDED NURSING SERVICE.

A further conference was held at the Local Government Board Offices on Friday, 12th inst., to consider the report of the Provisional Committee appointed last year on District Nursing in London. There was a large attendance, including representatives of the Local Government Board, the Board of Education, the National Health Insurance Commission, the London County Council, the London Insurance Committee, the Charity Organisation Society, the Hospital Sunday Fund, Boards of Guardians, District Nursing Associations, Hospital Almoners, Parochial Charities, the medical profession, and others.

#### ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., welcomed the delegates, and said that perhaps nothing was more remarkable within recent years than the growing development of health services generally, and the growing interest taken by Parliament and by the country in questions affecting the health of the people. The result had been a great reduction in the death rate—about 30 per cent. in twenty years. That was perhaps the most remarkable social achievement that had been accomplished in any country in modern times. To this improvement in the nation's health unquestionably the creation of a new nursing service had very largely contributed, and the growing co-operation of official and voluntary agencies had also contributed. Nothing was more important than for Government Departments to welcome and encourage co-operation between voluntary philanthropic agencies and themselves. In the sphere of nursing they would not get the best results until they brought in, not merely the active assistance of governing Departments, but also the public purse to aid in the organisation of the nursing service. At the same time, they should not damp down the enthusiasm which was the moving force of the voluntary organisations now carrying on the work. It was essential that they should not professionalise the nursing service—should not unduly officialise it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had announced in the House of Commons, on behalf of the Government, that they proposed to ask Parliament for a considerable sum of money in aid of nursing services, a sum of money which would amount to a quarter of a million pounds in a full year. The grant did not find a place in the Finance Bill this year, and attention had been called to the fact that it did not appear in the Schedule, but that did not mean that the Government had abandoned

their intention. As a matter of drafting, it was unnecessary that this grant should appear in the Schedule of the Finance Bill. It could be dealt with by being included in the Supplementary Estimates, and the fact that it did not appear in the Schedule did not imply that the money would not be forthcoming in this and in following years.

#### THE RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

"That a Central Council for London should be established consisting of representatives of those engaged in district nursing and of others interested in the question, with the object of so systematising the arrangements for district nursing that there shall be adequate provision throughout the county.

"That such council should be so constituted as to include representatives of : (a) The Churches, (b) public authorities, (c) charitable and philanthropic agencies, (d) friendly societies, (e) the medical profession, (f) the nursing profession, (g) the district nursing associations, (h) other persons interested in the matter.

"That the members of the Provisional Committee be reappointed, with power to add to their number, to act as a Provisional Committee, empowered to invite representatives of the various interests concerned to serve on the first Central Council, and to settle such details as may be necessary for the establishment of the council."

### SCOTTISH MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The Scottish Matrons' Association held its summer meeting in the Royal Infirmary, Dundee, on Saturday, June 6th. Miss Gill, R.R.C., presided.

The Annual Report was submitted, and showed sustained membership, and satisfactory progress of the Association.

Three new members were elected.

Delegates were nominated to attend the Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, to be held in Bristol in October.

The President reported progress in the work of establishing the King Edward Memorial Home for Nurses in Scotland.

Two papers were read on the usefulness, or otherwise, of Conference, Miss Watson, Q.V.J.N.I., Paisley, taking the affirmative, and Miss Davidson, Bangour Village Asylum, taking the negative, and the members discussed the points of view of both papers.

It was agreed to send a subscription from the Association to the Central State Registration Fund.

Votes of thanks to the President, to the ladies who wrote the papers, and to Miss Pegg, the Matron of the Hospital, concluded the meeting. After tea, a visit was paid to the Hospital.

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