

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Friday, January 23rd. Mrs. Fenwick presided.

THE REPORT.

Miss Breay, hon. secretary, reported that a synopsis of the Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Central Committee for State Registration had been received, and that a leaflet had been issued, by the authority of the Committee, in reply to objections put forward by anti-registrationists.

That the Society was indebted to Miss Alice Wackrill for the gift of a valuable paper, dealing with the Registration question from the point of view of the public, which had now been published at 1d. in pamphlet form.

The shortage of nurses and consequent suffering of the poor, and the scandalous misuse of trained nurses' uniform by persons of immoral character, necessitated the most energetic effort upon the part of nurses to have their Bill considered in the House of Commons, and the Society had determined to push the question forward by every means in its power. A Petition from the Certificated Nurses of the Kingdom would be considered. The Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association had adopted a scheme for the State Registration of Nurses, and a deputation from the Association had been received by the Minister of Health in Melbourne, who promised "that every consideration should be given to the matter." The report was adopted, and it was agreed to subscribe £3 3s. annually to the Central Registration Committee, and to help with the Petition.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The correspondence between the Secretary of King Edward the VII Hospital Fund for London and the Hon. Secretary was read, and it was agreed that he should be informed that in the opinion of the Committee it was greatly to be deplored that the Council of the King's Fund had decided to take no action, when the fact had been brought to its notice, that funds subscribed by the charitable for the benefit of the sick poor were used by the constituent hospitals represented on the Central Hospital Council for London for political propaganda against the State Registration of Nurses, a reform recommended by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and agreed to, with

the support of the Government, by the House of Lords.

A correspondence on this subject, not for publication, between the Honble. Sydney Holland and Miss Kingsford, was read.

The following letter, addressed to the Hon. Sec. National Council of Trained Nurses, was read and considered:—

CALIFORNIAN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.
BUREAU OF REGISTRATION OF NURSES,
SACRAMENTO.

DEAR MADAM,—The Legislature of the State of California, U.S.A., passed an Act providing for the examination and registration of graduated nurses, which received the approval and signature of the Governor of the State on June 12th, and became operative on August 12th, 1913.

Herewith enclosed is a copy by which you will see that we shall have reciprocity with foreign countries having such laws.

The administration of our law is under the State Board of Health, a department of the State Government. At present this Board is organising a Bureau of Registration of Nurses and desires that you will kindly send us a copy of your laws or regulations with a list of your training schools and any data that you have relating to examination and registration of nurses.

Thanking you very cordially for this favour,

I am, sincerely yours,

ANNA C. JAMMÉ, R.N.
Director, Bureau of Registration
of Nurses.

The Hon. Secretary was directed to reply, with much regret, that as legal status had for years been denied to the trained nurses of the United Kingdom, there were no laws or regulations to forward, and therefore no reciprocity could be arranged between Great Britain and Ireland and the State of California.

Miss Breay reported that it was hoped that every graduate nurse in California would be registered under the new Act in time to welcome the International Council of Nurses at San Francisco in 1915.

The Chairman remarked that the position of English, Scottish, and Irish nurses who attended the International Nurses' Congress would be all the more invidious unless Parliament considered and passed their Bill.

It was agreed that the adoption of Registration laws in so many countries was discriminating adversely against English nurses.

SHORTAGE OF NURSES.

The question of the shortage of nurses was considered, and the opinion expressed that very real suffering of poor people in many institutions was the result. The disorganized conditions of training, service, and small pay,

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