

assembled, desires to place on record its unqualified disapproval of the present organization of the nursing of sick and wounded soldiers in military auxiliary hospitals at home and abroad.

In the opinion of the National Council, the standard of nursing for the sick and wounded should be of the highest quality that a grateful nation can provide for men who are risking their lives in the defence of the Empire.

This Council therefore most earnestly petitions the Secretary of State for War (whose Department is primarily responsible for the health and comfort of the troops) to prevent the expenditure of the munificent subscriptions of the public on inefficient nursing and the subjection of the sick and wounded to the dangerous interference of untrained and unskilled women, who have been placed in positions of responsibility for which they are not qualified, greatly to the detriment of the discipline in military auxiliary hospitals, and the general welfare of the sick.

RE-ELECTION OF HON. OFFICERS.

The following Hon. Officers were unanimously re-elected :—

President—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

Hon. Treasurer—Miss Christina Forrest.

Hon. Secretary—Miss Beatrice Cutler.

Hon. Vice-President—Miss R. Cox-Davies, President of two Leagues affiliated to the Council, was nominated Vice-President, subject to her consent to act, in place of Miss Musson, who retired in rotation.

Directors—Miss M. Buckingham, President Queen's Hospital Nurses' League, Birmingham, and Miss Elma Smith, President, Hendon Infirmary Nurses' League, were nominated to succeed Miss Mary Burr and Miss M. Wright, both of whom retired in rotation. Miss Smith, who was present, accepted office.

The meeting then terminated, and members of the Scottish and Irish units of the French Flag Nursing Corps were entertained to tea. Miss Gargan and Miss Cargill, both of whom are members of the Council, were present. Miss May L. Wilson, from New Zealand, was also present.

BEATRICE CUTLER,
Hon. Secretary.

RESIGNATION.

After more than twenty years' devoted service as Matron of the Strangers' Hospital, Rio de Janeiro, Miss J. A. Jackson has resigned the position, and is leaving for England at the end of this month. Her successor is Miss R. Watt, formerly Matron of the Miller Hospital, Greenwich, who recently has had charge of a private nursing home in Rio.

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

Although the movement for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was initiated in this country twenty-seven years ago, its objects and scope are still very imperfectly realized.

Those who read this journal week by week are kept informed as to the latest phases of its progress, but we ask them not only to acquaint themselves with the question, but to lose no opportunity of informing the public as to its urgency. And since the question is so large, we briefly set down for their guidance some of the most important points to be emphasised.

The movement is an educational one, the object of the Nurses' Registration Bill being to regulate the qualifications of trained nurses and to provide for their registration. It does not propose to penalize the practice of unregistered nurses, but to restrict the use of the title of "registered nurse" to those who have satisfied a Nursing Council appointed under the authority of the State that they possess the qualifications necessary to render them safe attendants on the sick, and to provide that the names of all those who attain the prescribed standard shall be entered on a Nursing Register, so that the public may be able to distinguish registered from unregistered nurses, and also that discipline may be maintained in the ranks of nurses so registered.

The principle was unanimously recommended by a Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1905, after it had been exhaustively considered during two Sessions. In 1908 the House of Lords passed the Nurses' Registration Bill, drafted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, without a division having been taken at any stage.

On March 3rd, 1914, the Bill introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. Chapple, M.P., on behalf of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and supported by members of all parties in the House, was carried on its first reading by a majority of 229 votes.

The benefits of a system of Nurses' Registration are apparent to organized nurses all over the world. Registration of nurses is in force in Cape Colony, Natal, the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony, in South Africa; in New Zealand; in the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba, in Canada; in Queensland, Australia; in the Bombay Presidency in India; in forty of the United States of America; in the German Empire; and in Belgium. In other British Dominions and in European countries trained nurses are organized to obtain it.

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