

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The annual meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, W., on Thursday, July 16th, at 4 p.m. The President of the Society, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair and was supported on the platform by Lady Strachey, Sir Victor Horsley, Miss Heather Bigg (Matron, Charing Cross Hospital), Miss Cox Davies (Matron, Royal Free Hospital), and Mrs. Arthur Stabb. There was a very good attendance of members.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Hon. Secretary presented the Annual Report and Audited Accounts, which emphasised the increasing need in the interests of the community of the standardization of nursing education, showing that on all sides the work of nursing was broadening, while on the other hand the lack of legal status and of the standardization of education was acting most prejudicially, both on the numbers and quality of candidates applying for training. In many hospitals and infirmaries the shortage of candidates was acutely felt, and it was evident that if a suitable and sufficient supply was to be attracted to the nursing profession the Government must seriously consider the long-deferred question of nursing legislation.

During the year 190 new members had been elected, bringing up the numbers of those who had joined the Society to 3,500. Early in the year the appointment of His Excellency Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson as Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in Australia deprived the Registration Cause of the support which he had for so many years given to it in the House of Commons, both by introducing the Bill and in other ways. Acting on Sir Ronald's strongly expressed advice, Dr. Chapple, Member for Stirlingshire, was invited by the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses to take charge of the Bill.

A small deputation of members of the Society were at Victoria Station to wish His Excellency and Lady Helen God-speed on their departure for Australia, and, in its name, the President presented flowers of the National colours to Lady Helen, and expressed to her the gratitude of the Society for all that both she and Sir Ronald had done to further its interests. Since their arrival in Australia His Excellency has forwarded to the President papers illustrating his reception in Australia, rightly assuming that his work for the Empire will always be followed with interest by the members of this Society, which owes so much to him and to Lady Helen.

The Report also described the introduction of the Nurses Bill into the House of Commons by Dr. Chapple, under the ten minutes Rule on March 3rd, with the resulting majority of 228, followed on July 6th by the presentation of a memorial to the Prime Minister by Dr. Chapple, on behalf of the Central Committee, praying for

facilities for the passing of the Bill, supported by a petition from over 500 matrons.

The report referred to the very successful and most instructive Nursing Conference and Exhibition organised by the National Council of Trained Nurses at Birmingham through the General Hospital Birmingham Nurses' League, and to the powerful support given to the registration cause by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Professor Barling, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Mrs. George Cadbury, and others, and to the unanimous resolution in support of State Registration passed on that occasion. The resolutions passed in open Conferences of Nurses in Glasgow in February, and in London in April, by the Irish Nurses Association at their annual meeting, by the Annual Conference of Yorkshire Poor Law Boards at Scarborough in the autumn, and at a meeting addressed by Sir Victor Horsley at Leeds, were noted. The Vice-Presidents appointed during the year were Mrs. Strong, President of the Scottish Nurses Association, Miss A. Carson Rae, and Dr. E. W. Goodall.

Reference was also made to the fact that Registration of Nurses is now in force in the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba in Canada, that a Bill has been drafted in British Columbia, and that at the annual meeting of the Canadian National Association of Nurses at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on July 10th and 11th, a session was devoted to this question and reports presented from every province in the Dominion.

Progress was also reported in Australia, in the State of Victoria, where the new Minister of Health has been interviewed by a deputation from the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses Association, with the object of securing the consent of the Government to assume control of Nurses Registration; and in South Africa, where there is a movement for the consolidation of the law relating to the registration and training of nurses, and to obtain representation of the nurses on their governing body.

It was also recorded that Registration laws have been passed in Florida, Kentucky, and Mississippi in the United States, bringing the number of States in which Registration is in force up to 40. That in California 4,500 nurses have registered under the waiver, that the Act became operative in August, 1913, and that in reply to an intimation from the Director of the Bureau of Education sending regulations for reciprocity with foreign countries, and asking for our own laws and regulations, we were compelled to reply that reciprocity with this country was at present impossible, as the nurses of the United Kingdom have no legal status.

The Report concluded by recording the thanks of the Society to the Committee of the Registered Nurses Society for the use of their Board Room, free of cost, for meetings of the Society, and to those members—Miss A. E. Hulme, Miss B. Kent, Miss R. Metherell, Miss H. Hawkins, Miss G. B. Macvitie, and Miss E. Farrington—who have given valuable clerical help.

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