

The audited accounts showed that subscriptions and donations amounted to £61 5s. 9d., and the Balance in hand to £46 16s. 6d.

The Report and Balance Sheet were unanimously adopted.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee were then re-elected, with the following alterations and additions:— Miss E. Milne, delegate of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses' League, in succession to Mrs. Shuter; Mrs. Jeffers, Secretary of the Irish Nurses' Association, in succession to Miss E. Hanan; and the Presidents of the newly formed Queen's Hospital Birmingham Nurses' League, and the Southwark Infirmary Nurses' League, Miss M. A. Buckingham and Miss Rose Wallace.

In connection with the appointment of the Executive Committee, the President brought forward the suggestion made by Miss E. Pell Smith, Delegate of the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, Nurses' League that the principle of substitute delegates should be sanctioned, and said that for the sake of the continuity of business she thought it would be undesirable to have a variety of substitutes, but for a League to have an alternative delegate might be desirable. This was approved.

ADDRESS BY SIR VICTOR HORSLEY.

Sir Victor Horsley congratulated the Society on its work, the object of which was essentially to uplift the interests of the people. The rich could secure good nurses, and in speaking of uplifting the interests of people he did not mean only the very poor, who could obtain excellent nursing care in hospitals, but that large stratum of society including the moderately poor, who too often did not get proper nursing. The members of the Society had to consider what steps they could take to promote its object to bring the provision of proper nursing care to the community. They could not have a better object in life than that to work for.

Speaking to an audience of nurses it appeared to him to be an especially appropriate occasion to refer to the part which Miss Florence Nightingale took in opposing the movement for State Registration of Nurses.

It would be a bold expression of wicked thought on the part of anyone to suggest that Miss Nightingale held that any nursing would do for the poor; her life and work proved the contrary. Yet only the day before it had been stated at a meeting which he attended that the poor in rural districts did not need fully trained nurses. Why the poor agricultural labourer, whose lot was hard enough, was to be refused the help readily at the disposal of the town dweller he could not imagine.

The question was largely one of money. To place a properly trained nurse in a rural district required a higher salary than that usually offered, and philanthropists were not willing to dip their hands sufficiently deeply in their pockets to provide the necessary amount. Of course, nurses should not be left in rural districts for an indefinite time, but that was another matter.

This question of the adequate payment of nurses was not confined to rural districts. The London County Council was actually paying higher salaries to untrained than to fully trained women.

Sir Victor emphasised the fact that humanity, and especially medical humanity, required that everyone should have the chance of being properly nursed. Through Mr. Lloyd George's enterprise the opportunity was within sight if he could be adequately guided, but now that State money was to be available for nurses, those who supplied half-trained nurses were very desirous of obtaining a share of it.

The enemies of State Registration were fond of quoting Miss Nightingale's opposition. Chief amongst these were Lady Jersey and Miss Lückes, Matron of the London Hospital, who, it was well known, was the mainspring of the clock, but she had recently allowed herself to be interviewed, and therefore to be criticised.

Sir Victor contended that it was neither honest nor accurate of those who quoted Miss Nightingale as opposed to registration to omit reference to the fact that she had deliberately written to Mr. Rathbone in 1891, "Forty years hence such a scheme might not be preposterous, provided the intermediate time be diligently and successfully employed in levelling up, that is, in making all nurses at least equal to the best trained nurses of this day, and in levelling up training schools in like manner."

That was a scientific and perfectly understandable attitude. Miss Nightingale was the last person in the world to have no regard for future developments. As a medical man who honoured Florence Nightingale, he thought it intolerable that she, who broke the first sod in the campaign for better educational conditions for nurses, should be represented in the light of for ever obstructing progress.

Sir Victor then said that the meeting had heard in the general report what was being done in our Dominions, and had no doubt realised what a bright future might be before them. He referred to the question of reciprocity, and said that it did not matter if it was asserted that the proposition for Nurses Registration was imperfect. When people said the scheme of medical reciprocity was not perfect that might be true, but it provided a good working basis. The same would hold good of nursing. A trained nurse from the United Kingdom should be able to go to any part of the British Dominion with a recognised status.

Only that afternoon he had been talking to an eminent medical man (Dr. Bruce) from Ontario, where, as they had heard, registration was in force, though it was not really pushed till the last eighteen months.

In this country the advocates of nurses' registration had been working for it for more than twenty-five years. That was no credit to the intelligence of the Mother Country, but it was not the first time that a daughter had been able to teach her parents.

The speaker concluded by saying that the

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