

Society was doing work of importance of the first rank. The report had rightly stated that the year had been a fruitful one. Even the enemies of registration admitted that it was "bound to come." One more push and he hoped it would be an accomplished fact.

In moving a very cordial vote of thanks to Sir Victor Horsley from the chair for his inspiring address, the President said that nursing reform suffered from being regarded as a woman's question. It was not a woman's question or even a national question only, but a human one.

#### RESOLUTION I.

The following Resolution was then proposed by Miss R. Cox Davies, Matron of the Royal Free Hospital, seconded by Miss L. V. Haughton, Matron of Guy's Hospital, and carried unanimously:—

"That the members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, in Annual Meeting assembled, earnestly support the Memorial presented to the Prime Minister by Dr. Chapple, M.P., on behalf of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, praying that His Majesty's Government may be pleased to afford the necessary facilities, so that the Nurses' Registration Bill, which passed its First Reading in the House of Commons by a majority of 228 on March 3rd, may be considered on its merits.

"They further desire to express their earnest conviction that, in the interests of the community, such action is of urgent importance."

Miss Cox Davies said that she was very glad to be present to move the resolution, and to bring the voice of a considerable number of nurses. She was at present President of the League of Royal Free Hospital Nurses, a young League numbering 135 nurses, and the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, the largest of all, numbering about 800 nurses, so that she stood there as representing nearly 1,000 women holding certificates of 3 years' training. Both Leagues had passed resolutions in favour of the State Registration of Trained Nurses. It was customary to say that the voice of nurses did not count for very much, as they followed their Matrons and did as they were told. She took considerable pride in knowing that the Leagues in which she held the position of President, included 1,000 women as intelligent, or more so, than herself, that they thought for themselves, and were not so lamb-like as to be dominated by her.

There was no need at a meeting of that kind to discuss the reasons for Nurses' Registration, because all present were convinced supporters of the movement. But she wished to urge the need for individual work on the part of the members. She hoped they would leave the meeting resolved to take upon their own shoulders the duty of propaganda work, and she quoted from THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING the Editor's advice in this connection.

Referring to Miss Nightingale's views on registration of nurses, she said that though in her old age she was opposed to it, if she were with us in full vigour—not in old age which is naturally averse to change—but moving about amongst us and seeing the evils of which we were cognisant, that she, too, would in all probability be a supporter of the registration movement.

Miss Haughton said that as the representative of the Irish Nurses' Association, she was specially glad to second the resolution. She, too, emphasised the need for individual work. As the Home Rule Bill for Ireland might soon be in force, and Ireland was unanimous on the subject, perhaps next year Irish Nurses might be registered under their own Bill.

#### AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION.

The President reminded the members of their duty to the insured sick, and of seeing that Nurses subsidized by State funds were adequately trained, and their knowledge guaranteed by the State. They must ask the Chancellor to see that State money was justly expended. She would now call on Mrs. Stabb to move an emergency resolution on the question.

#### RESOLUTION II.

Mrs. Arthur Stabb then moved the following Resolution, which was seconded by Miss H. Anderson, Matron of the East End Mothers' Home, and carried unanimously:—

"That the Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses desires to draw the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the fact that under the National Insurance Act the qualifications of medical practitioners and midwives attending insured persons are registered under State authority, and to urge upon him the necessity that Nurses subsidized by State Funds shall be similarly guaranteed."

Mrs. Stabb said that, in addition to the Resolution, she would like to propose, as a Rider, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should be asked to receive a Deputation to put before him the necessity of employing only fully trained nurses in connection with his scheme for nursing insured persons, and if he accepted the suggestion to ask him to define the term "trained nurse."

If Mr. Lloyd George consented to receive such a Deputation, she thought he would see the difficulty of defining the term as things are at present, and it might so bring home to him the need for State Registration that he might champion the nurses' cause and persuade the Government to give facilities for the passage of a Nurses' Registration Bill into law.

That the Government should give facilities was, she believed, the only hope of getting the Bill through so long as one person could effectually block a private Member's Bill.

The meeting learnt with much regret that Dr. E. W. Goodall, Hon. Medical Secretary of the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses was indisposed, and unable to attend.

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