

A DEPUTATION TO THE HOME SECRETARY.

The President then read a message just received from the House of Commons from Dr. Chapple, who had hoped to address the meeting, that he was detained at the House and could not get away. He sent word that Mr. McKenna, the Home Secretary, had consented to receive a Deputation of Nurses, an announcement which was greeted with much applause.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and speakers, after which the members present responded to the most hospitable invitation of Mrs. Walter Spencer and adjourned to 2, Portland Place, where they passed a delightful time, enjoying the tea and other good things provided, and much lively conversation.

MARGARET BREAY,

Hon. Secretary.

REGISTRATION NEWS.

The eighty-second Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Aberdeen on July 28th, 29th, 30th, and 31st next, under the presidency of Sir Alexander Ogston, consulting surgeon, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, and surgeon-in-ordinary to the King in Scotland.

Nurses Registration is to be discussed at the Annual Representative Meeting, and we learn that a member of the London Hospital Medical Staff is going to oppose the resolution, "That the representative body re-affirm its opinion that the State Registration of Nurses is desirable." It is to be hoped the Rider sent by the Trowbridge Branch if adopted, "That this Meeting views with concern the increasing number of insufficiently trained nurses, and call upon the Government, and the other authorities concerned, to take steps to remedy the evil," will be sent to the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, and to the Committees of all County and Cottage Nursing Associations, as it is these latter bodies which are to blame for insufficient standards.

HIGH TIME FOR LEGISLATION.

The *Lancet* gives two columns of editorial comment to Nurses Registration last week, and after touching on the progress of the Bill in the House of Commons this session, lays stress on the fact that only three out of twelve of the Matrons of large London Hospitals with medical schools attached, support the Petition for a second reading. We need only quote "Barts." The Matron trained at the London Hospital, and holding a two years' certificate of training—signs "anti"—whilst the League of 780 three years' certificated nurses trained at St. Bartholomews Hospital are in favour of a professional guarantee of efficiency for the public. Surely their demand weighs down that scale! The editor of the *Lancet* has apparently overlooked the signatures of the Matrons of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, the Matrons of the Royal Infirmary and Western Infirmary, Glasgow,

and almost every Matron in the Irish Metropolis—he will find their names in the Petition. The fact is the opposition of the autocratic committees of a few London Hospitals to "State interference," now stands between the public and their right to a guarantee of nursing efficiency, under statutory authority. But the time is ripe for nursing legislation. There are medical, dental, pharmaceutical, midwifery, domestic and laundry Acts in force, to which all hospital managers have, as employers, to conform; why are nurses to be excluded from similar protective legislation? The truth is they are in greater need of legislation than any class of hospital worker.

LEAGUE NEWS.

The Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League have made a good start with their collection for the Nurses' International Memorial to Miss Nightingale. A committee has been appointed, and the Matron, Miss Forrest, suggested that they had better begin in time as their League was a small one compared to others, and that each member should be invited to contribute One Day's Pay, whatever that might be, as proposed by the National Council of Trained Nurses, which was organizing the Fund in the United Kingdom. The Vice-President, Miss McDonald, 15, Gerald Road, Bournemouth, undertook to collect subscriptions, and in the first few days quite a fair sum was given.

Collecting cards can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, N.C.T.N., 431, Oxford Street, London, W., as Nurses may often be able to direct the benefactions of other people; for all the world has a personal interest in the efficiency of the trained nurse, and it is to attain this that the Nightingale Chair of Nursing and Health will be founded.

HOW NURSES ARE EXPLOITED.

Stanley Alexander Flemmer, of the Harley Institute, Marylebone Road, W., who was recently deprived of his licence as an employment agent by the London County Council, was on Monday fined £25 and 7 guineas costs for carrying on an agency without a licence. Mr. James H. Pawlyn, who prosecuted, said that Flemmer's plan was to find situations for nurses and pay them their earnings less 3s. 6d. in the guinea, but a number of cases had been brought to the notice of the London County Council in which, though he was paid by the people who engaged the nurses he failed to pay them. Two nurses gave evidence as to his owing them £14 and £18 respectively.

The magistrate, in imposing the fine, said it was a most scandalous state of things. He hoped there were not many places like this in London. It might be worth while to take Counsel's opinion whether Flemmer's conduct came within the Larceny Act of 1901.

If a system of registration were in force such exploitation would be an unprofitable business.

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