

Commons, organised by the National Union of Trained Nurses.

AMERICAN MATRONS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT.

In conclusion, the Report referred with gratification to the honour recently conferred upon the President of the Society, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in her election as an Honorary Member of the American National League for Nursing Education at the Philadelphia Convention.

The proposition was made by Miss M. Nutting, Professor of the Department of Nursing and Health at Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, who wrote to the President of the National League:—

"Mrs. Bedford Fenwick is a most able and distinguished member of our profession, who has, for the past thirty years, devoted herself with conspicuous energy, ability, and courage, to the support and protection of sound standards in nursing education, and to the maintenance of a just economic status for professional nurses.

"We shall be honoured in electing Mrs. Fenwick to Hon. Membership in the oldest Society of Nurses in America."

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDITED BALANCE SHEET.

The Statement of Accounts and Audited Balance Sheet was then read by the Hon. Secretary which showed a balance in hand of £61 8s. 3d.

The adoption of the report and audited accounts was moved by Miss E. L. C. Eden, who said that the Report was an encouraging record of faithful work well done.

She emphasised the absolute importance of every member of the Society being able to explain what it is working for and why. In the first place, it was said that the College had offered trained nurses the right of representation on the First Council. It had not done so. It had offered the Central Committee the favour of suggesting names. She asked that the right should be established for the organised societies of nurses to be represented on the First Council of any Nurses' Registration Act. That would benefit their status, and be advantageous to the public.

The College of Nursing must understand that this claim is not to be put on one side, and it was important that nurses should be able to put their claim into words.

Continuing, Miss Eden said that if nurses explained their point of view to unbiassed persons—such as Members of Parliament and of the general public—they grasped it at once. If they were solid together, if they stood by one another with courage and determination, they would win. She held that a freedom-loving nation should be willing to give its nurses a liberal share of self-government.

The adoption of the report was seconded by Miss G. B. Macvittie.

Discussing the Report, Miss Beatrice Kent said that it was with the greatest pleasure that she had heard of the honour conferred upon the

President by our American sisters, who had shown their sisterly sympathy and friendship. These were specially sweet at this time, when some of our own compatriots were firing their heavy artillery upon us.

The Report and Statement of Accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee for the ensuing year were then elected, the new members being Miss O'Flynn, President of the Irish Nurses' Association; Miss Margaret Carruthers, delegate of the National Union of Trained Nurses; Miss Eden, Hon. Secretary, N.U.T.N.; Miss A. E. Hulme; and Miss Beatrice Kent.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Message from America.

The President prefaced her short address by reading the following message, received from the United States of America:—

"Department of Nursing and Health." "Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.

"May 1st, 1917.

"We, the Members of the National League for Nursing Education, composed of the superintendents and teaching staff of about six hundred training schools for nurses, and other institutions of America in which nurses are being taught or are occupied, wish at this time to send our cordial greetings to the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses of England.

"We wish in this message to express our high appreciation of the long and valiant services which your society has rendered to the cause of nursing in your unfailing and untiring efforts to safeguard the liberties of the working nurse; to preserve for her the right to deal with her own professional affairs and to urge upon her the responsibility and the obligation of so doing. In particular we desire to express the complete sympathy of the League with the present struggle which your society is now so courageously making to secure for nurses adequate representation on the governing boards of those bodies which are seeking to control nursing affairs.

"In order that the maintenance of proper educational standards for nurses, and also of a just economic status for nurses, may not pass from the hands of nurses, who alone are able to interpret their own needs and direct the issues arising from them, it is of the highest importance that your efforts should succeed.

"We, the Members of the National League for Nursing Education of America, welcome therefore this opportunity of affirming our belief that the principles for which the Society for Registration of Trained Nurses in England is contending, are fundamental principles of human government and cannot safely be disregarded in this great, important and vitally responsible branch of women's work."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)