

circulated by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, urging that in any Bill for their Registration, provision should be made for the direct representation of the Organized Societies of Nurses in the United Kingdom on the Provisional Governing Body authorized by Parliament, to frame the Rules and Regulations to which the Registered Nurses will have to conform, and also the Memorandum issued by the College of Nursing, Ltd., in opposition to the Petition.

A Resolution to be moved at a meeting of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses on the following day was also read, and the meeting was unanimous that its delegates should be instructed to vote for the Resolution.

The President then said she was sure everyone present would wish her to express to Mrs. Barton, and to ask her to convey to H.H. the Maharajah Jam Sahib of Nawanagar the thanks of the Matrons' Council for the invitation to meet at Jamnagar House. This was carried by acclamation.

In acknowledging the vote, Mrs. Barton said that the Maharajah had asked her to express his hope that it would not be the last time that the Matrons' Council came there.

The meeting then terminated.

The day was a perfect one, and tea was laid on small tables on the widespreading lawns in the lovely garden, members of the nursing staff of the hospital circulating genially around, not only with tea and coffee, but with great dishes of strawberries and cream, and with beautiful peaches.

The Council had the happiness of having as its guests Miss Vida McLean, A.R.R.C., Matron of No. 1 New Zealand Hospital, Brockenhurst; Miss Wilson, A.R.R.C., Matron No. 2 New Zealand Hospital, Walton-on-Thames, and Miss Anderson, Matron of the New Zealand Convalescent Hospital, Hornchurch, Essex. After tea the members dispersed, some to visit the beautiful glasshouses and gardens under the guidance of Mr. Swan, and others to enjoy the delight of the river in motor or rowing boats, past delightful little bungalows, which would be ideal headquarters for a holiday.

Everything was so peaceful and restful that, except for the occasional appearance of an aeroplane, it was almost possible to forget for a few short hours that we are at war.

The members returned to London and elsewhere, grateful to Mrs. Barton for the delightful afternoon spent at Staines, which will not soon be forgotten.

## POOR LAW NURSES AND REGISTRATION.

At a meeting of the Derbyshire Branch of the Poor Law Officers' Association, held recently at Belper, a Nurses' Section was formed. The President, Mr. Grantham, presided. The Secretary, Mr. Geach, as reported in the *Poor Law Officers' Journal*, said that a matter of the greatest present importance to the Branch was the careful consideration of the best means of bringing nurses into membership. As they were aware, a College of Nursing had been recently formed, and up to the present the endeavours of the National Poor Law Officers' Association to get representatives of Poor Law nurses elected on the first Council had failed. One strong reason urged as the cause of this result was that the National Association could not claim to represent the whole of the Poor Law nurses of this country.\* He therefore urged them to come forward and join the Association by forming a separate section, the membership of which would entitle them also to Branch membership. Mr. Geach placed the meeting in possession of all the facts concerning the proposed representation on the College of Nursing and the interest taken in the welfare of the nurses.

Mr. Grattan, Master of the Belper Poor Law Institution, said he was sure they all very much appreciated their Secretary's action in placing the matter so lucidly before them. They were positively disgusted with the treatment meted out to them by the refusal to find places for the representatives of the Poor Law infirmaries, and they were determined not to have it. He urged the nurses not to allow this opportunity to slip, but to grasp it and insist upon being represented.

On the proposition of Miss Blenkharn (Superintendent Nurse, Derby), seconded by Miss Taylor (Superintendent Nurse, Belper), it was unanimously decided to form a separate section for Derbyshire.

Mr. Geach expressed his pleasure at this decision and offered to do what he could to organise the establishment of the section and to arrange for the first meeting.

We note that in the same journal a very erroneous statement is made "that if a Poor Law nurse is not a member of the College, or, rather, is not certified according to its terms, she will not be able to be a nurse at all, any more than an uncertificated physician or surgeon could practise as a Medical Officer of a Poor Law Institution."

The voluntary Register of the College of Nursing has no exclusive powers whatever, and whenever Parliament enforces an Act for the State Registration of Nurses it will not be made compulsory to register to nurse the sick. No doubt if a just Bill passes all nurses will avail themselves of its privileges, but they will not be *compelled* to do so.

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