

THE SCOTTISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Scottish Nurses' Association was held in the Masonic Halls, 100, West Regent Street, Glasgow, on November 19th. Mrs. Strong (the President), was in the chair; and there was a good attendance of members. Those on the platform included the Marchioness of Ailsa, the Honble. Albinia Brodrick, Miss J. Paterson (N.U.T.N.), and Dr. M'Gregor Robertson (Vice-President).

The ninth annual report, which was submitted by Dr. M'Gregor Robertson, showed that new members had joined the association to the extent of 100. The treasurer's report showed a balance in hand of £60 18s. 3d.; it referred to action taken by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, on which five delegates of the Association have seats—and stated that the negotiations between the Royal British Nurses' Association and the College of Nursing, Ltd., to obtain a Supplemental Charter from the Privy Council to form a Royal British College of Nursing had broken down. The report stated that, as trained nurses generally might resent the scheme for a Nation's Fund for Nurses started by the Committee of the British Women's Hospital Fund in support of a Benevolent and Endowment Fund for the College of Nursing, a resolution had been sent to the British Women's Hospital Fund, thus supporting the action taken by the Society for the State Registration of Nurses in objecting to the proposed charitable scheme.

The annual reports were adopted. Mrs. Strong was re-elected President. Other office-bearers were also re-elected; and Miss Gemmell (Kirkcaldy), and Miss Finn and Miss Cowie (Paisley), were added to the Committee.

Mrs. Strong said the increase of interest in the Association was something marvellous. The great feature of the year had been the opening of the club rooms, which were first thought of merely for the members of the Scottish Nurses' Association, but which had been thrown open to all nurses, trained or in training. The effect had been wonderful.

This innovation had resulted in a great number of nurses meeting and exchanging their views, and a large number had consequently joined the Association as full members.

Mrs. Strong then called upon the Honble. Albinia Brodrick to speak on "Professional Development and Organization."

DEMOCRATIC SELF GOVERNMENT.

Miss Brodrick delivered the same inspiring address which was quoted in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING last week.

She said if there were any lessons that the nations of the earth had learned, although maybe not yet in their entirety, from the European holocaust, it was the value of that trained skill, of that cheerful endurance, of that understanding science, and of that perfect fearlessness which

characterised their profession. For nurses, the war had had an entirely different lesson—the lesson that democratic self-government in its purest form was a necessity of their profession. It might be safely said that had any other profession, any other body of working men or women, been treated as nurses had been during the past three years its members would have "downed tools" and come out on strike until such time as their legitimate grievances should have been adjusted, a fair living wage secured, and the invasion of blacklegs discontinued. It was solely due to the patriotism and the love of humanity of the nurses that such a catastrophe had not occurred. Justice the nurses would have—fair pay for good work done, the limitation of working hours, such as every working woman was entitled to, a recognition of their profession, and the acknowledgment of the services rendered to humanity by them.

Miss Brodrick's address was greatly appreciated and the demand for a high standard of work, loyalty and comradeship was applauded.

A GUY'S TRAINED NURSE ON THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

Miss Jentie Paterson spoke briefly on the College of Nursing, Ltd. She remarked that she had been asked to speak more from the point of a Guy's trained nurse unable to join the College movement—which was originated by the officials of the hospital—than as a Member of the N.U.T.N. Miss Paterson pointed out that Guy's trained nurses were not solid for the College. Personally she knew many who were absolutely anti-College, and had joined the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses or the N.U.T.N. or both, and one or two others had lately written to her saying they now realized they had been "had," and that there were two sides to the question, but they had been led to believe that the Society which had aimed at State Registration had become decadent, and at best was managed by a crank! Though Guy's nurses were not coerced into joining the College, as in some hospitals, still the authorities refused permission for anti-articles to appear in the hospital *Gazette*; also, in conjunction with other London hospitals, Guy's had refused the offer of a N.U.T.N. speaker to instruct the nursing staff on the other side of the question, and Miss Paterson understood from several nurses that they had not been consulted in this refusal. Having subscribed their guinea they did not wish to join any other society at present, but would persuade anyone they knew to hear *both sides of the question* before applying for College membership. Miss Paterson then briefly touched on discrepancies between the College Curriculum and the Articles of Association. She placed the history of the College of Nursing under four headings:—

1. Its birth with a blare of trumpets suggesting arrival of millenium.
2. Attempted affiliation to R.B.N.A.
3. Frustration of this scheme.
4. Drowning man grasping at a straw.

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