

THE REPORT OF THE MEDICAL HON.  
SECRETARY.

The Chairman then called on the Medical Hon. Secretary, Mr. Herbert Paterson, to present his Report.

Mr. Paterson first made two announcements: (1) that he had been commanded by Her Royal Highness the President to announce that H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught had acceded to her invitation to become one of the Vice-Presidents; and (2) that Miss Graham, Matron of the Adelaide Hospital, to whom the success of the South Australian branch was largely due, was present on the platform.

NURSES OBJECT TO CHARITABLE APPEAL.

He then said, holding up a daily newspaper containing a long advertisement of the appeal for the Nation's Nurses: "There is another reason for congratulation this afternoon, and that is that the Association is not responsible for, nor associated with, these advertisements which are appearing in the daily press. The nursing profession do not desire to appeal to the public for charity, and I am sure trained nurses would wish to dissociate themselves from such an appeal. (Hear, hear.) I am given to understand that some nurses have written to the press and expressed their disapproval of these advertisements, but that their letters have not been published. I hope that when the press realise how bitterly trained nurses resent being associated with this appeal they will in common fairness give an opportunity for the views of the profession to be made public." (Hear, hear.)

A BOLT FROM THE BLUE.

Mr. Paterson then briefly recalled the agreement sanctioned by a Special General Meeting of the Association last January, for the amalgamation of the College of Nursing, Ltd., with the Association, subject to the granting of the Supplemental Charter and approval of the new Bye Laws, by the Privy Council.

It was the middle of June before the answer to the Petition was received, and up to that time he thought none of the Council of the Association had any doubt that the amalgamation was an accomplished fact. The reply, therefore, of the Privy Council, making very material and important alterations in Clause 2 of the Supplemental Charter, came to the Council as a bolt from the blue. After very careful consideration of these alterations, the Council came to the conclusion that it would not be in the interests of the Association, or of the Nursing Profession, to agree to them.

"A GEM OF A LETTER."

Mr. Paterson then read what he described as "a gem of a letter," received from Miss Rundle, the Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd. (this was the letter, dated November 3rd, published in our issue of December 1st, on page 355).

He then dealt with the letter in detail, saying, however, he did not propose to adopt its tone

in his reply, and that he should endeavour to be more logical. He was not going to indulge in any recriminations, but simply to give a statement of what had occurred. He would like to say here that Sir Arthur Stanley gave him the impression that he was acting as he thought best in the interests of nurses, but that he was misguided. He thought this letter was evidence that he had the wrong advisers behind him.

REFUTATION OF CHARGE OF DILATORY  
METHODS.

Mr. Paterson strongly repudiated and refuted the accusation of dilatoriness on the part of the R.B.N.A. in dealing with the Privy Council. He referred to the Petition of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses *vs* the Association's Petition for a Supplemental Charter and New Bye Laws which the Association received from the Privy Council, to which he need not now refer further than to say that with certain of the objections they were agreed, and asked the Privy Council to amend their Charter accordingly.

"I should, however," said Mr. Paterson, "like just to refer to one point. In this Petition objection was taken to the financial proposals of the College. This question was raised again at the meeting on March 29th and the Hon. Treasurer of the College replied as follows:—'The objection on the question of finance is met by Mr. Stanley's proposal to get an Endowment Fund for the College, and a Benevolent Endowment Fund, and it is hoped that there will be £100,000 for each.'

"Before sending our reply to the Privy Council I raised the question again with our solicitor, and I have here a letter in which he writes:—'I have seen the Hon. Arthur Stanley and he concurs in the view that it would be undesirable to insert any provision for the raising of further funds, as he is satisfied that plenty of money will be forthcoming.' After such a statement I do not think we could have foreseen the adoption of the methods of raising money to which I have already alluded."

Mr. Paterson reported that the Council meeting to consider the reply of the Privy Council was held on September 27th, and the resolution passed: "After careful consideration of the objections raised by the Privy Council to the Draft Supplemental Charter as agreed upon by the Corporation, and the College of Nursing, Ltd., the General Council have reluctantly come to the conclusion that it would not be to the interest of the Corporation to accept the alterations suggested."

As we know that the amalgamation could be completed at any time up to December 21st, the Association was well within the terms of its agreement when it came to this decision.

IMPORTANCE OF ALTERATIONS SUGGESTED  
BY THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

The Secretary of the College wrote: "The alterations suggested by the Privy Council in the Supplemental Charter and Bye-Laws do not in

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)