

important future for the Association. The Nursing Profession has never been so much in the public view, has never been held in such regard as it is to-day. The goal of State Registration is in sight. Now is the time for those who wish for the power of self-defence, statutory recognition, State Registration, and freedom from lay control to sink all differences and to unite in a strong pull, a long pull, and a pull all together until our goal is reached."

In conclusion Mr. Paterson said: "We should have nothing whatever to gain, and everything to lose if we accepted the Supplemental Charter as amended by the Privy Council. It confers no fresh powers, gives us no further prestige, and does nothing, in fact, but change our name, and this we do not desire unless there is some tangible benefit to be gained for the Association, and for the profession.

"In the future it will continue to be my earnest endeavour to safeguard and to further the interests of this Association, of which it is my privilege to be Medical Honorary Secretary, and to promote the welfare of the Nursing Profession—a profession for which I have the highest regard and admiration, a profession which I am proud to serve."

Miss Amy Holmes expressed her pleasure that the Council had refused to agree to the alteration in the Charter, and deprecated appeals to public charity for nurses. They wanted neither charity nor praise, and, speaking as one engaged in Red Cross work, said she considered it a privilege to be of service. It was the duty of the State to make provision for nurses incapacitated by war service.

Miss Bertha Cave emphasised the need for the adequate representation of nurses in private practice upon their governing body.

#### Resolution.

Mrs. Myatt then proposed the following resolution:—

"That the members desire to place on record their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by the Council in their endeavour to further the highest interests of this Association, to assure them of their complete confidence and support, and thereby fully approve their action in declining to agree to the proposed alterations to the supplemental Charter."

This was seconded by Miss Liddiatt.

Mr. Comyns Berkeley said he wished to state why, after having been an officer of the Association for twenty years, he had resigned the Treasurership. It was because he disagreed with the policy adopted. He then detailed the proceedings at the special general meeting in January, which supported the amalgamation without a dissentient. With such a mandate could it be wondered at that he tried to get it through? In regard to the interpretation placed on the word "official," he would undertake to say it never entered into the minds of 99 in 100 of those present at the General Meeting.

An Official Register based on the R.B.N.A. list, which the Privy Council was willing to concede was something they did not possess power to keep at

present. It might be news to some of them that they could only keep a list. The Council of the Association, however, would have none of it. He contended that when the members voted in favour of the amalgamation they were thinking of the general advantages, not of the Register. He had had a good many letters lately, anonymous and otherwise—some most offensive. He warned the members that one or more Bolos had been interesting themselves in the affairs of the Association, and some members of the Council had unwittingly made themselves their abettors, and were becoming obsessed with the word "official." "You know," he said, "what Boloism did for Italy. Take care of your own Association. The Bolos did not care a fig for the words 'the Official Register,' they were out to wreck the amalgamation."

Mr. Berkeley considered that a great opportunity had been lost by the action of the Council. He tendered his resignation as Hon. Treasurer.

Mr. Berkeley's speech was punctuated by exclamations of dissent from members who disagreed with his point of view.

Mr. Paterson said that in a letter received from Mr. Pitt, their solicitor, it was stated that the Executive of the Association had the sole control. The letter was written at the instigation of Mr. Berkeley. That was not correct, the Council was the only body which had the power. He further said he could not accept Mr. Berkeley's version.

Dr. Walter Griffith said that he had pointed out at the January meeting the impossibility of the Privy Council granting the powers asked for. They were not going to get them. He supported the action of the Council, and congratulated the members that they were not going to lose the independent position they held at the present time. He also expressed the opinion that it was fatal in difficult negotiations to have the solicitor to the Association and Mr. Berkeley acting on both sides.

The Resolution was carried with 3 dissentients.

Mrs. Latter, who proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Paterson, remarked that there was no reason for the Association to commit hari-kari, in order that another should rise up from its ashes.

Miss Little seconded the resolution. She thought that in Mr. Paterson they had a man who would safeguard the interests of the Association, and enlarge its borders. She thought that preferable to being extinguished by a junior society.

The vote was carried with acclamation.

On the motion of the Chairman, the meeting resolved that a vote of sympathy be conveyed to their President, H.R.H. Princess Christian, in her bereavement.

The proceedings of a meeting in which the members really took a personal and effective part, terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

#### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

We regret to have to hold over the Report of the National Council Meeting till next week.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was unanimously re-elected President for another term of three years.

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