

SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Thursday, February 21st. After the Minutes had been confirmed, Miss B. Cutler presented the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, with a bouquet of lovely spring flowers, composed of daffies, jonquils, narcissus, mimosa, and freezias, in recognition of the part she had taken in helping to win the vote for women, especially for the lead she had given to Trained Nurses in a demand for full citizenship.

Mrs. Fenwick, in returning thanks, gave a short *resumé* of the historic fight in which she was thankful to remember members of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses had taken a valiant part. She, Miss Breay, Miss H. L. Pearse, Miss C. Lee, Miss B. Kent, Mrs. Lidyard, Miss Dinnie, Miss H. Hawkins, and others had taken part in every important Procession in London to bring their demand for enfranchisement before the public. Mrs. Fenwick spoke of the indifference and callow chaff to which they were at first subjected by the "manhood" of the Metropolis in the early days, and how, year after year, the "women who walked" were treated with greater courtesy. She had been invited to "take the curb" in the Nurses Section—a great compliment as it became her duty to parry with repartee the sallies of the onlookers, and in thus crossing verbal swords to deliver the "retort courteous" to the satisfaction of the public. It was a merry process, and added greatly to the gaiety of the game. The Nurses' Section became very popular as time went on, and to see Miss H. L. Pearse step forth, upholding splendidly the "Florence Nightingale" Banner in the roughest wind, from the Embankment to the Albert Hall, was a lesson in pluck and physical endurance that always won applause, usually to the sing song of "Good old Florence—good old Florence," by which the people signified their affection of the Queen of Nurses.

Mrs. Fenwick said that to no cause should "the vote" be more useful than to that of Nurses' Registration, which on a just basis meant the

professional enfranchisement of the Nursing Profession, and they would go forward in firm opposition to the forces of reaction now mustering in opposition to their life-long demand—forces which knit together the reactionary influences of the employer, through social influence, in the press, and in high places through wealth, love of power, and fear of freedom for the worker, a hydra-headed monster of which they were not afraid, but whose powerful and malign influence they must not undervalue.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE PREMIER.

A Vote of Thanks for the Reform Bill and Congratulation to the Premier was moved from the chair, and passed by acclamation, a measure which must inevitably result in the elevation of the



MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, SISTERS, MIDWIVES AND "BOBBIES" IN A SUFFRAGE PROCESSION.

British People and the Security of the British Empire, "based firm upon the People's Will." The President made a short Report on the Registration movement, and on the negotiations with the Royal British Nurses' Association, in which their delegate had taken part.

The Agenda for the Meeting of the Central Committee was considered, and the delegates instructed.

An invitation from the Joint Committee of the Women's Industrial Council and the Fabian Women's Group to send two delegates to attend a Conference to discuss the various proposals which are being put forward with regard to the establishment of a Ministry of Health, at which the Rt. Hon. Herbert Samuel M.P., would preside, was accepted, and Mrs. Fenwick and Miss Le Geyt were elected to attend.

New members were elected.

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