

4. Good and well-kept quarters.
5. Regulation recreation hours, and a good library and reading room.
6. Sufficient practice in dressings, and a regular rota of training.

Miss Cox Davies, Matron Royal Free Hospital, said that although the Chairman had ruled that State Registration was not to be discussed, she herself must speak on the subject, as it lay at the back of every idea of reform.

She stated the College of Nursing had come into existence to continue the work begun by Florence Nightingale. Registration was of great importance. The College had set up a voluntary register by way of getting the reliable voice of the worker and of starting the standardizing machinery so that all might be ready by the time the profession had agreed upon State Registration. The College stood for standardisation of education. The College hoped in the near future to establish a central building as educational headquarters, club rooms, &c., and to have local centres. These had already been formed at Manchester and Liverpool, and they hoped to form them at Leicester and Birmingham. The College was getting great support from the training schools, and had 8,000 nurses on its register. The College would be helping on the reform Miss Escott asked for.

With regard to eight-hour shifts, Miss Cox Davies felt the reason for the existence of nurses was the care of sick people, and she thought the suggested change would be detrimental to this, and she would be sorry to see it come into force. Longer hours off duty would be preferable.

Miss Olive Dent, V.A.D., spoke on the great attraction of the profession, both from its scientific aspect and its human interest. She thought that nurses should have some psychological training, and pleaded for organised games as a form of recreation. She thought one great drawback to the profession was that girls could not begin till they were twenty-three, and was of the opinion that it had been proved that they could do hard work earlier.

A lady spoke on the food question for Nurses.

She said that as a rule the food was good, but not always, and it was almost invariably wanting in variety. She thought the distance of the dining room from the kitchen often resulted in the meals being cold, and that it would be well worth while for institutions to engage really good cooks, who had had some scientific training.

#### DISCUSSION.

Miss G. Sanders, who has occupied important posts on both sides of the Atlantic, and has, therefore, a wide experience, said she had actual practical knowledge of the eight-hour shift system, and knew it worked perfectly. The longer hours off duty suggested by Miss Cox Davies did not denote another system, but came to the same thing when worked out. It meant, in any case, larger staffs.

Miss Claridge spoke of the long hours and over fatigue of probationers, and mentioned the fact that they generally have to work up for their examinations during off duty time.

A lady said she very much deprecated, from the patients' point of view, that a nurse should be changed more often than necessary.

Another lady remarked that sometimes both nurses and patients were the better for a change.

Towards the conclusion of the meeting Miss Macdonald, Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, the only society of professional women incorporated by Royal Charter, asked that opportunity should be given to the organised societies of nurses to give their views concerning the organisation of their own profession.

The Chairman agreed that it would be interesting to hear them, and thought such a meeting might be arranged.

The Chairman summed up by making the very important point that teaching in hospital should be made a much more important matter than it is at present. The power of teaching should be an essential qualification of the Sisters to whom this duty was entrusted. Learners must, in the future, have a fair chance of being able to learn.

This claim was made in a Paper on the Organization of the Nursing Profession, read by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick before the Women's Institute 20 years ago.

### THE "PAUPER BRIGADE."

We note that Viscountess Cowdray appealed to "Service Men" in an advertisement in the *Times* on Tuesday for "help" for what may now be dubbed the "Pauper Brigade," known in past times as the very honourable class the Professional Nurses.

We note that the "ad." states that Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, Sir William Sloggett, General J. Smuts, Sir Alfred Keogh, and Sir A. T. Sloggett approved the appeal. In our opinion these gentlemen with authority should see that the pay, emoluments and pensions of military nurses are sufficient to keep them "off the rates" of public charity, and the patronage of wealthy leisured women.

#### ALL NURSES ELIGIBLE.

We also note that this latest "ad." states, "The Fund is being raised to endow the College of Nursing and to provide a Benevolent Fund to which all nurses are eligible."

So at last Viscountess Cowdray has realised that the Nation's Nurses are not comprised in the membership of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to the coercive constitution of which independent nurses decline to submit themselves, and, moreover, that such women are not to be dictated to by a handful of titled and pushful persons who know nothing of their professional affairs, and have no right whatever to interfere with their economic status in the body politic. We are making this principle quite clear to the Government. We will not be patronised by the mercantile peerage, nor any party wire-pullers whatever, and we have the sympathy of every man who esteems, at its true value, honourable work as a factor of national stability.

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