

## LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

The Winter General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, which was well attended, was held in the Clinical Theatre of the Hospital on Saturday, December 13th, at 2.30 p.m. Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, Vice-President, was in the chair.

Arising out of the minutes of the last meeting which recorded that telegrams of loyal congratulation on the declaration of peace, had been sent by the League to the King, and to the Prince of Wales, President of the Hospital, Miss Cutler, General Secretary, read telegrams sent in reply by His Majesty and the Prince of Wales.

### THE ISLA STEWART MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

Also a letter from the Clerk to the Governors, on behalf of Lord Sandhurst, Treasurer of the Hospital, stating that he willingly acceded to the desire of the League that the £2,000 contributed by it towards the new Nurses' Home in 1909 with the interest accruing therefrom, together with a further £700 collected by the League should be devoted to the building and equipment of the library in the Home, and that it should bear the name of Miss Isla Stewart, late Matron of the Hospital and Founder of the League.

The letter was received with much applause, and the chairman said that it was an enormous pleasure to the League that the Library, which was inaugurated by Miss Stewart, and in which she took so deep an interest, would bear her name in the new Home.

### A GREAT DAY FOR THE LEAGUE.

Mrs. Andrews then said that before passing on to the business on the Agenda, she had a very pleasant duty to perform. The day was a great day in the annals of the League which, since its foundation, had always stood for the State Registration of Nurses. The Government Bill, introduced by the Minister of Health for England and Wales, as well as the Scotch and Irish Bills, had all passed through the House of Commons and awaited their Second Reading on Monday, December 15th, in the House of Lords.

She had two resolutions to propose from the chair:—

#### RESOLUTION I.

That the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, numbering 1,038 certificated nurses, desires to express to the Right Hon. Christopher Addison, M.P., Minister of Health, its sincere thanks to him for introducing a Nurses' Registration Bill on behalf of the Government, for taking such a personal interest in its promotion, and for making such liberal provision for self-government for the registered nurses.

Members of the League feel specially gratified that the Minister responsible for the Nurses' Registration Bill was formerly on the medical staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and they desire to offer him their most cordial congratulations on his eminent ministerial position as Minister of Health.

In proposing the resolution, Mrs. Andrews said that just for a moment she would recall some ancient history concerning the hospital. Thirty-two years ago, when some of those present were unborn, and when a few were working in the hospital, there were two personalities of great interest to-day within its walls. One the Matron, who had already made her mark, and who, when walking round the wards, must already have had in her mind the organisation of nurses beyond the walls of the hospital, and the other an unknown student, liking the nurses as well as most students like them, but knowing nothing of the questions involved in their work, and quite unconscious that he was going to carry into effect later a great reform intimately affecting them.

Thirty-two years ago, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick proposed the foundation of the British Nurses' Association, ardently supported by Miss Isla Stewart, then Matron of the hospital, and Bart's nurses to-day must be filled with admiration for the sense of vision, the courage, the dogged perseverance and the faithful effort with which she had through all those years carried on the campaign for the organisation of nurses by the State.

Those who remembered all that would not benefit much by the legislation, which we hoped shortly would be carried into effect, which Dr. Addison had guided through all its stages in the House of Commons, and which, by a happy coincidence, was to be in charge of Lord Sandhurst, Treasurer of the Hospital, in the House of Lords. It was, however, up to the nurses of the present generation, and more especially to Bart's nurses, to use the benefits and privileges which would be conferred upon them by an Act of Parliament giving them legal status, to the fullest advantage.

She then put the resolution to the meeting, when it was carried unanimously and by acclamation.

#### RESOLUTION II.

Mrs. Andrews then moved from the chair a further resolution conveying to Lord Sandhurst the approval of the League of the Nurses' Registration Bill, and its pleasure at learning that it would be in charge of the Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital in the House of Lords.

In supporting the resolution, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said it was probable that the Bill, as promoted by the Minister of Health, would pass the Second Reading in the House of Lords on December 15th, as every principle incorporated in it had been granted by the Members of that House in 1908.

#### A LOSS TO THE LEAGUE.

The League received with great regret the resignation of Miss Beatrice Cutler of the position of Secretary a regret with which the President (Miss Helen Todd) who was unable to be present, had written asking to be associated. Mrs. Andrews, in conveying the thanks of the League to Miss Cutler, said she hoped it would always be a pleasure to her to know that it appreciated and thanked her for her work, but she thought it

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