

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, was held at 11, Chandos Street, London, W.1., on Monday afternoon last (June 30th), the chair being taken, in the absence from town of Her Royal Highness the President, by Mr. Herbert J. Paterson, Hon. Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The report of the Executive Committee stated that the most important event which had occurred in the past year was the affiliation with the Chartered Corporation of the Organised Societies of Nurses, each of which nominated a representative for election to the General Council of the Corporation. This affiliation must prove to be one of considerable significance in the history of the profession of Nursing. It would enlarge very considerably the usefulness to the Nurses of the Royal Charter, and, by ensuring a greater co-ordination would strengthen this and the other Societies in their efforts to bring about better organisation and greater protection of the interests of the profession.

The Financial Report, presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Kenneth Stewart, showed in the General Fund an excess of income over expenditure amounting to £212 19s. 5d.

In seconding the adoption of the Report, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick suggested that a special vote of thanks should be incorporated in it, expressing to the President, Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, the gratitude of the Members for her continued interest in and support of the welfare of the Nurses, of which encouragement they were deeply sensible.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO GENERAL COUNCIL.

Medical Men.—Herbert Carson, Esq., F.R.C.S., Sydney Coupland, Esq., M.D., Sir Anderson Critchett, F.R.C.S., Marcus Marwood Bowlan, Esq., M.D., Sir John Halliday Croom, F.R.C.P., Lieut.-Col. Goodall, M.D., G. Maxwell Simpson, Esq., M.D., Henry E. Symes-Thompson, Esq., M.D., Wm. Wynn Westcoat, Esq., M.B., P. Fallon Whittick, Esq., M.D.

Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses.—Miss Ethel T. Bickerton, R.R.C., Miss Alice Stewart Bryson, Miss A. Livingstone Charteris, Miss Beatrice Cutler, Miss Annie Hulme, Miss Susan Marsters, Miss MacKenzie Rose, Miss Elma Smith, Miss Susan Villiers, Miss Montgomery Wilson, R.R.C.

Sisters and Nurses.—Miss Evelyn Cancellor, Miss Cornelia Cave-Browne-Cave, Miss Violet Cobbett, Miss Rosamond Fowler, Miss Gladys Le Geyt, Mrs. Glover, Miss Mary Good, Miss Florence Habgood, Miss May Sheehan, Miss Pauline Shekleton.

Dr. McGregor Robertson, Chairman of the Scottish Nurses' Association, in proposing a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and office-bearers, said that their work was not confined

to the nurses of their organization, but included work for all the nurses of the three kingdoms. He hardly thought nurses realized the rapidity with which events moved in regard to State Registration. The extraordinary enthusiasm with which the Nurses' Registration Bill was received on the Second Reading in the House of Commons did not portend the curious situation which subsequently arose.

A campaign of misrepresentation and every kind of misstatement was inaugurated by the College of Nursing, Ltd.

In many hospitals, nurses were compelled to sign petitions against their own Bill. The future of nurses in training was in the hands of the Matron and Medical Superintendent, and they could not stand out against them. That should not be so. A nurse should be as free to form her own opinion as any workman is. The time must come when it would not be in the power of a medical man or a Matron to dictate to a nurse what opinion she should hold. She must be free to act as she chose in relation to her professional affairs with no possibility of having a barrier—a black mark—placed against her name.

A friend of his who went to France, summed up the position by saying that nurses began by not being permitted to have a soul of their own, and ended by not having one.

They must insist on having a soul of their own or clauses would be inserted in their Bill which were not in their interest. They must rouse themselves, support their Office bearers, and, by their own propaganda, create an enlightened public opinion.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick supported the vote of thanks. She said:

In regard to their Registration Bill, some might have been disappointed at the result of the wrecking policy of the College protagonists, but, when the Minister of Health announced that the Government intended to bring in a Nurses' Registration Bill, it was an enormous triumph for those who had been fighting to secure this reform for so many years. Without the help of the Government it was unlikely that the struggle between employer and employed would ever be terminated. They must now do their best to help Dr. Addison to evolve a just Bill.

The Resolution was carried by acclamation.

On behalf of the Hon. Officers, Mrs. Campbell Thomson thanked the members for their vote of confidence, and said they would continue to try to deserve it.

The members then adjourned for tea, which was served in an adjoining room.

OVERSEAS NURSING ASSOCIATION.

By the courtesy of Sir Owen and Lady Philipps the annual Meeting of this Association (formerly the Colonial Nursing Association) was held at Chelsea House, Cadogan Place, on June 25th at

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)