

SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The annual meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1, on Friday, June 4th, at 4.30 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The annual report was presented by the Hon. Secretary, Miss M. Breay.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report opened with the inspiring announcement: "We meet to-day to present the eighteenth annual report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and to put on record the fact that the object for which our Society was founded in 1902 is accomplished, namely 'to obtain an Act of Parliament providing for the legal Registration of Trained Nurses,' the Royal Assent having been given to the Nurses' Registration Acts for England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively on December 23rd, 1919."

It then went into details as to the progress of the Bills through the various stages, with which the readers of this Journal are familiar, and mentioned that the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss M. Huxley, the Senior Vice-President, and the following members had been appointed on to the General Nursing Councils in the United Kingdom: Miss K. L. Burleigh, Miss A. Dowbiggin, C.B.E., R.R.C., Miss I. Macdonald, Miss M. O'Flynn, Miss A. Reeves, and Miss S. A. Villiers.

Congratulations on the passing of the Registration Acts had been received by the President of the Society from the Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, Miss L. E. Dock, from Miss Hester Maclean, Assistant Inspector and Registrar in the Department of Public Health, New Zealand, which Dominion was the first to pass (in 1901) a separate Act for the State Registration of Nurses, from the National Association of Nurses of India, from the President and Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses, from Miss Helen Randal, editor of the *Canadian Nurse*, from the Calgary Association of Graduate Nurses, Alberta, from the President and National Council of Nurses of Denmark, from Miss Bergljot Larsson, President of the Norwegian Council of Trained Nurses, from the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing, Bordeaux, from Nosokomos, the Dutch National Association of Nurses, from Miss Gretta Lyons, President of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, Australia, and others.

The Executive Committee had met six times, and a Sub-Committee had considered and reported on the question of an eight-hours' day for nurses.

The Executive had had under consideration the future of the Society and its report and

recommendations were before the annual meeting for discussion.

THE SUCCESSFUL RESULT OF THE SOCIETY'S WORK.

Miss Mollett said that arising out of the report, and the successful result of the Society's work, she thought the words of Philip of Spain to William of Orange were applicable to their President: "Not the States but you."

Mrs. Fenwick said Miss Mollett's words were very flattering, but it was impossible to do things without co-operation and active support. No one was stronger than his backing.

Miss Mollett, in reiterating her opinion, said that Mrs. Fenwick and herself were the only ones left of the little group of Matrons who met at 20, Upper Wimpole Street in November, 1887, when Mrs. Fenwick first proposed the foundation of the British Nurses' Association with State Registration of Nurses, as its main objective.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Financial Statement for the year ending April 30th, 1920, showed a balance in hand on May 1st, 1919, of £95 18s. 2d. Subscriptions and donations during the year had been £83 18s. 3d.; a total of £178 19s. 5d. The expenditure during the year was £163 16s. 3d., the principal items being printing and stationery, £110 3s. 3d. and postages £25 11s. 6d. Nothing had been spent on office expenses or clerical help. The year closed with a balance at the bank of £15 3s. 2d.—the great expense of the Society's propaganda, while the Nurses' Registration Bills were before Parliament, having been defrayed from the subscriptions and donations of the members—money spent to some purpose. (Hear, hear.)

THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY.

The President said that the object for which the Society had been founded having been achieved, it remained with the annual meeting to decide upon its future, whether it should dissolve, or adopt a fresh title and objects.

The Executive took to heart the hope expressed by the Minister of Health in January of the present year when he addressed the Society at 11, Chandos Street—that it would not abandon the experience it must have gained, and the allegiance it must have gathered round it, because it was essential for the benefit of the nursing profession, as it was for every other, that it should gradually arrive at some arrangement which would provide for it an instructed body who would be well informed of its requirements, and could be turned to for advice and suggestion if necessary.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The President said further.—

The question of the future of the Society was referred by the General Meeting in January to the Executive Committee for consideration and report, and the Committee beg to recommend that the Society should be reconstituted as "The

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