

in print. The Committee had under consideration the Syllabus for the training of Male Nurses, and of Mental Nurses.

#### THE ONE PORTAL EXAMINATION.

The question of affiliated and reciprocal schemes of training was also under consideration for a one portal examination. The Act provided that the Council should have power to regulate the conduct of examinations; to be, in fact, the one examining body for English and Welsh nurses in the future to qualify for admission to the Register, and thus avoid the competition of numerous examining bodies which had proved so undesirable in the medical profession.

It was hoped to hold the first State Examination in July, 1924. No doubt it would not be of too exacting a nature, after which it was probable there would be a preliminary examination after the first year's training; and a final examination at the termination of the three years' course.

#### THE PRESCRIBED SCHEME FOR THE ELECTED COUNCIL.

The Act provided that there should be a prescribed scheme for the constitution of the elected and nominated Council. It would appear that the principle adopted by the Minister of Health in forming the first Council might stand as a precedent; and provision be made for the representation of classes of nurses on the Council. Thus, general trained nurses and those on the Supplementary Parts of the Register would have expert representation. It would appear that such representatives should be influentially nominated. The Registration Committee had this scheme under serious consideration, and hoped to recommend one which would be approved by the Council and the future electorate.

Mrs. Fenwick resumed her seat amidst appreciative applause.

#### VOTES OF THANKS.

Mr. Howson Ray said it was a privilege to propose a vote of thanks to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who had explained the mode and origin of a great movement, putting it before them with unusual clearness. Mrs. Fenwick had devoted many years to the furtherance of this cause, in support of which she had displayed energy, persuasiveness and charm.

The battle for State Registration of Nurses had been a very severe and arduous one, and it needed people with the knowledge and determination of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to bring it to a successful issue. Now the Nurses' Registration Bill had become an Act, and she had placed its scope before them very clearly, and the way in which members of the Council would be elected by the nurses themselves.

In connection with the protected uniform and badge the speaker suggested that prizes might be offered for a design for the best, trimmest and most suitable uniform, as well as for that of a

badge. He had much pleasure in proposing a most cordial vote of thanks to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick for her address, coupled with the hope that she would be spared for a long time to exercise her very persuasive powers.

Dr. Coates expressed his pleasure in seconding the Resolution. Their very hearty thanks were due to Mrs. Fenwick for coming down to Manchester and explaining this important subject. It was also a great pleasure to bear testimony to her professional work. He had had the pleasure of knowing her as Sister Charlotte at the London Hospital, when her wards were the best, and the patients the happiest, in the hospital, and everything was extremely well done. In most hospitals men who were coming on for house appointments tried to be put down for one under a distinguished surgeon or physician, but at the London Hospital, in Mrs. Fenwick's time, everyone tried to be put down for whoever was the visiting physician in Sister Charlotte's ward. She was a great loss to the London when she left to do excellent work as Matron at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He quite agreed that if they were to raise the Nursing Profession they must organize and they must register. There was no great gulf between aspiration and achievement, but they needed organisation, loyalty to their Council and to one another, courage—and not only physical courage but spiritual faith—then through their Registration they would reach that goal for which Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and others had been working.

The Chairman said that they all realised they owed a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and Mrs. Fenwick, in thanking those present for her kind reception, said that she hoped the General Nursing Council would have the support of all the nurses present, and that, with their valuable Certificates, they would come on to the State Register and help to build it up. They should remember also that the first election for the Council would be in 1922, and the nurses then on the Register would have the privilege of exercising the vote for the sixteen nurse-representatives.

#### A WARM VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIRMAN.

A warm vote of thanks to Sir William Cobbett for so kindly presiding was then moved by Miss Milne, of the Withington Hospital, and seconded by Miss Welfitt Nicholls, who emphasised the value of the support given to the nurses by their Chairman, in coming to their meeting and acquainting himself with their problems.

The Chairman in reply expressed his great pleasure in presiding, and invited those present to tea in the dining hall, and an adjournment was made and further informal discussion took place as friends foregathered round attractive little tea-tables.

The supply of the Rules were eagerly bought up, and Forms for Registration in great demand.

M. B.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)