

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

A General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses was held on Saturday, December 10th, in the Clinical Theatre of the Hospital, at 3 p.m. The President (Miss Helen Todd) was in the chair, and there was a very good attendance of members.

On behalf of the League, the President conveyed to Lady Baddeley, who was present, its warm congratulations on her position as Lady Mayoress of London. It was proud to have the Lady Mayoress as a member of the League. Miss Todd also announced, at Lady Baddeley's request, that she invited the League to an "At Home" at the Mansion House, at a date not yet fixed, but probably in March or April—an invitation which was received with applause.

Lady Baddeley thanked the League for its congratulations.

Arising out of the minutes, the President said no application for loans from the Benevolent Fund for training purposes had been received.

It was agreed to send a vote of condolence and sympathy to Miss Waind on the death of her sister—a Bart.'s nurse.

### A NEW CLAUSE TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The next item on the agenda was a Resolution to alter Clause 3 of the Constitution, which provides that

"The Qualification for Membership shall be the Certificate of the Hospital."

And that the Clause should henceforth be—

"The Matron and Assistant Matron shall be *ex-officio* members of the League. All other Members must hold the Certificate of efficiency granted by the Hospital."

Letters in support of the Amendment to Clause 3 were read; and a letter from Mrs. Hey Groves, regretting her inability to be present, and stating that if it were possible to vote by proxy she should like to record her vote against the proposal, as she thought it inadvisable under any circumstances.

Miss Pote Hunt then briefly moved the Resolution.

This was seconded by Mrs. Spencer.

The President said the time had come to alter the Constitution.

Miss Clara Lee expressed the view that it would be lowering the standard of the League to admit those from without.

Mrs. Spencer said that the Matron and Assistant Matron, if they did not hold the certificate of the hospital, would only be members of the League so long as they held office.

Mrs. Lancelot Andrews supported the new Clause.

The Resolution was then carried with one dissident.

### RECORD OF CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY IN THE STATE REGISTER.

The President then said that Miss H. L. Pearse had communicated with her, asking to be allowed to bring up the question of the record of certificates of proficiency in the Register to be issued under the authority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. There was nothing in the Bye-laws to prevent it.

Miss Pearse then moved the following Resolution:—

#### Emergency Resolution.

"That this meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses (which comprises over 1,000 certificated nurses) desires to express its conviction (1) that certificates, whenever held, should be recorded upon the State Register of Nurses if the Register is to be of public utility, and of any value to the nursing and medical professions; (2) that it would be detrimental to the professional and economic interests of the nurses to deprive them of the evidence of their proficiency, and that the omission of this record would inevitably alienate the support of numbers of certificated nurses, upon whose co-operation the success of the Register mainly depends."

Miss Pearse said that the proposal that the State Register should be compiled without recording certificates of proficiency had come as a shock to her. She could not imagine any Register without this fundamental information. As an instance of the value set by nurses upon their certificates, she instanced her own case. Owing to inadequate information she, in the first instance, obtained a year's training and then did private nursing. So strongly did she then feel the necessity for obtaining a certificate of proficiency from a recognised school that she began all over again and obtained the Bart.'s certificate.

She emphasised the point that it would be detrimental to the professional and economic interests of nurses not to record their certificates. To those reaching the end of their nursing careers it did not matter except sentimentally, but to the younger nurses it would be a matter of serious economic disadvantage, as the Register would no doubt be used as a Directory by Public Authorities, and if, when they consulted it, they found no evidence of a nurse holding a certificate they would be liable to pass her over, as out of date, in favour of one placed on the Register by virtue of her holding the certificate awarded by the General Nursing Council after Examination. That would be a great economic disadvantage to her.

It might be possible that adjustments should be made to meet the case of nurses trained in hospitals which, in the past, did not give certificates. But sentimental reasons in favour of any particular hospital should not be allowed to weigh against the interests of the whole profession.

Miss Clara Lee seconded the Resolution.

Discussion was then invited, and Miss Breay said that she cordially supported the Resolution. In the first place she thought that they should support those members of the General Nursing Council who were working under difficult circum-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)