

stances to defend the interests of the nurses, and to secure the record of their certificates on the State Register.

She cordially endorsed the view expressed by Miss Pearse that the omission of these certificates would be most prejudicial to the younger nurses, including those now training, and who, with their positions to make, and their living to earn, would have to compete with those who, in 1924, gained the certificate, after passing the examination, of the General Nursing Council. They would be at a disadvantage throughout the whole of their nursing careers, and would rank somewhat as those midwives on the Roll of the Central Midwives Board who are known as the "old bona-fides."

Moreover, if two nurses had gone in for the same examination before November 1st, 1919, and one had passed and the other had failed, their record in the Register would be identical if certificates were not recorded. Was that fair?

It must be remembered that the Nurse-Training Schools had, so far, acted as the examining bodies for nurses, and that their certificates corresponded more or less with the certificates and degrees obtained by members of other professions. They were the only evidence of proficiency which a nurse, up to the present time, could produce, and all voluntary Registers of Nurses hitherto published had recorded certificates, including the latest, that of the College of Nursing, Ltd.

The President had referred to the statement that a considerable number of the General Nursing Council had resigned; it might perhaps be said that they had gone on strike, and the Matrons could not complain of the Nurses' Unions ever again, when they had practically adopted strike tactics, and instead of carrying out the duties which they undertook to perform when they accepted office, were holding up the business of the Council to the injury of the nurses. It was said that these resignations were not connected with the certificate question. Perhaps in time the reasons for them would be forthcoming, but the question before the members of the League at the present time was a straight issue. Did they wish the record of their certificates in the State Register, or did they not? It was inconceivable to her that this proposal should have been made; in her view, it was an unjust and cruel proposition. She had much pleasure in supporting Miss Pearse's resolution.

Mrs. Spencer agreed with all Miss Breay had said.

Miss Le Geyt also supported the resolution. She thought it important from the point of view of the public that certificates should appear on the Register. Was it fair to women now training that their whole professional status should be lowered for ever, as it would be if their certificates were not recorded?

The President asked if any one could say what reasons influenced those who did not wish certificates recorded.

No one responded, and the Resolution was then put to the meeting and declared from the chair to be carried unanimously.

The President then said she supposed the meeting would wish the Resolution to be sent to the Minister of Health.

Miss Le Geyt asked leave to make a further proposal:

"That copies of this Resolution be sent—

"(1) To the Minister of Health asking him to sanction any amendment to the Rules which may be necessary to ensure that certificates be recorded;

"(2) To the Treasurer and Almoners of St. Bartholomew's Hospital asking them to support the certificated nurses of the Hospital in their effort to prevent what in their opinion would be a great injustice;

"(3) To the General Nursing Council for England and Wales."

The President said the fullest publicity possible would be ensured by these means.

The Resolution was then seconded and carried unanimously.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PRINCESS MARY.

The President proposed that the congratulations of the League should be sent to Princess Mary on her approaching marriage. The Hospital was very closely connected with the Royal House, and she felt sure this would be the wish of the League.

The proposal was carried by acclamation.

#### WORK IN NYASALAND.

Miss Simpkin gave a very interesting account of her work in Nyasaland, after which the members present adjourned to the Nurses' Home, where Sister Annie Zunz had, with her usual skill, arranged a most delightful tea, which enlivened, with much friendly chat, was greatly enjoyed.

#### THE PASSING OF A GREAT SOUL.

There are some people whom misfortune and affliction embitter, and some who rise to heights of greatness which, but for their affliction, they would not have attained. To the latter class belongs Sir Arthur Pearson, whose tragic death leaves so many people the poorer. A keen journalist, in a premier position in the journalistic world, the loss of his sight must have been a devastating disaster, but he not only rose superior to it, but his character took on an added beauty and sweetness. From thenceforth he made the care of others similarly afflicted his special charge, and all the world knows how he brought to bear on his work for the blind the energy, capacity, enthusiasm and sympathy which had made his literary work so great a success. St. Dunstan's, and all that it stands for, is to-day his best, as it will be his most enduring monument, and in the hearts of men, some little more than lads, who, in the moment when their lives seemed in ruins around them, he rescued from despair, and showed that life still held happiness and usefulness, there is the glow of gratitude which is his best reward.

We hope that the work which he so successfully inaugurated will be maintained as a permanent memorial to his memory.

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