

Darbyshire's resignation as President, owing to her approaching departure from India, was received. Lady Edwards was appointed in her place. Miss Griffin, Delhi, was appointed Secretary and Treasurer. The election resulted in an equal representation of Mission and non-Mission hospitals.

The afternoon session was devoted to the Delhi Health School. Miss Griffin read a most interesting paper giving particulars of the work there. Afterwards there was discussion, and samples of the needlework of the students and mothers were shown. The course extends for one year from October to August. Only fully trained midwives are accepted for the Health Visitors' training, and fully-trained nurses are preferred, but that is not insisted upon. A good knowledge of English and of at least one vernacular is required, therefore only girls with a good education are eligible. Seventh standard girls are taken, but the Matriculation standard is preferred. All candidates must be 21 years of age. The work of Health Visitors is to supervise the dais, and instruct mothers in the rearing of children. They are not there actually to conduct labour cases, but they must, if possible, be present at the delivery and visit afterwards. The training includes First-Aid, home-nursing, care of healthy children, cooking, food-values, needlework, sanitation, and tropical diseases. The Health Officer gives lectures in hygiene and sanitation, and visits are made to public buildings, dairies, wells, &c., so that practical sanitation is demonstrated. Lectures are given by lady doctors, and the Superintendents of the school, Miss Griffin and Miss Graham, do the practical instruction. Visits are paid to infant welfare centres and the students' work there. A most important branch of the training is the dais classes, and students are trained to hold classes for them. Private pupils are taken who pay Rs. 75 per mensem for training. They are free at the end of the course. Ordinary pupils receive a salary of Rs. 40 per mensem, out of which they must provide for their board, excluding servants. These pupils must agree to serve wherever they are required for three years after training. The final examination (written, oral, and practical) is conducted by an examining board. Diplomas are granted in two grades: "A," 75% and over, and "B," below 75%. "B" grade pupils may take the examination again after some years' work. "A" grade pupils receive a salary of Rs. 150 to Rs. 250 per mensem, and "B" grade Rs. 75, rising to Rs. 150. Europeans, Hindus of all castes, Mohammedans, and Anglo-Indians, are accepted as pupils.

Discussion, led by Miss Darbyshire, on Registration, occupied Saturday morning. The difficulties in the way were first brought forward: the lack of proper training, and the shortage of nurses, leading to the employment of untrained people; also the shortage of Government money. To overcome this improvement must take place from within. It rests with those who are fully trained to agitate for better training and for better prospects. Nursing must be looked upon as a profession, not as a

trade, and public opinion created to look upon it in that light. The medical services, then the Provincial Governments, and after that the Government of India must be approached to take a higher view of nursing and to do something for its improvement. We have for our guidance the history of Registration in England. We have many more difficulties in India—the caste system and the national want of respect for nurses—but in spite of these we hope that Registration may be an accomplished fact in a much shorter time than it has taken to become so in England. Undesirables will in time be weeded out of the profession, provided that a supply of properly trained nurses can be provided. Lady Reading has proposed the establishment of a nursing service for Indian girls much on the lines of the Lady Minto's Association. She proposes to establish centres of training for Indian girls in hospitals in which women only are nursed, and after training they will be required to nurse women only. Conditions being as they are at present, Indian girls of good family will not go where they are expected to nurse men.

The methods suggested were that the T.N.A.I. do all in its power to strengthen itself, and get matrons, medical officers, and educational departments interested in the subject. It would be a good thing if the Association could form branches in the Provinces and get Provincial Registration, then, later on, link up the Provinces and get Government of India Registration, the vastly differing conditions which prevail in the various Provinces being kept in mind. Other State Registration rules would be a guide, especially the Australian ones. Moral character would need to be a specially important point. The benefits would first of all be to the nurses themselves. They would have improved status; pay and prospects would be clearly defined, and training would be in accordance with a prescribed syllabus. The general status being improved, a better class of girls would naturally be attracted to the profession. The benefit would also be to the public. They would have a guarantee whether the person employed was a trained nurse or not. They would also be protected from untrained people charging exorbitant fees.

The Saturday afternoon discussion, led by Dr. Curjil, was on the improvement of maternity work in India. The usual questions of inadequate training and the lack of suitable candidates were again brought forward. What is specially lacking in the case of midwives is organisation and supervision of them after they leave training centres. In towns this, in a measure, can be done, and hostels provided for them; but in the villages and large country districts the difficulties are very great, but the need is also greater.

The outcome of the conference seemed to me very much to be to impress upon us all the crying need for a stronger united body of trained nurses who would be keen to work for better training of nurses, better conditions of work, and who would educate public opinion to recognise that nurses belong to an honourable profession.

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