

This was seconded by Lady Galway and was carried.

Dr. J. S. Fairbairn, the Hon. Consulting Physician to the Society, proposed a vote of thanks to H.R.H. Princess Christian for her kindness in coming to preside at the meeting, and went on to thank his audience for the evident interest they took in the work.

The business proceedings then ended, and all adjourned to a sumptuous tea, which Mrs. Macdonald had been kind enough to provide. An opportunity was taken during tea to thank Mrs. Macdonald most heartily for allowing the meeting to be held at her house and for all the trouble she had taken to help ensure its success.

### JEALOUSY OF REGISTRATION PIONEERS.

The attack made by Miss Cox-Davies at the Annual Meeting of the College of Nursing, Ltd., on the pioneers of State Registration and belittling the value of the organisations through which they successfully worked, has aroused widespread indignation. This is not surprising when we remember that the battle for State Registration had been fought and won and paid for by the pioneers before the College Company came into existence. Further, the status of the Societies of Nurses which promoted Lord Amptill's Bill in the House of Lords had been investigated by Parliament, and borne the test of enquiry.

It is on record in Hansard that during the Committee stage the late Lord Balfour of Burleigh asked the Lord President (Lord Wolverhampton) whether he had satisfied himself that the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland and the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses should be entrusted with the great powers which (under the Act) they would have to exercise.

The Earl of Crewe pointed out that these Societies had promoted the Bill and it was as reasonable to suppose that they would desire representation on the Council as it was to assume that those who had opposed it would not desire it.

The representation of both Societies on the first Governing Body was retained.

Miss Cox-Davies' attack is peculiarly cruel, because it involves not only the living but the dead. She knows well that from its foundation in 1894 to the day of her death in 1910 Miss Isla Stewart, late Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to whom she owes her training and much else besides, was President of the Matrons' Council, and with courage and conscience supported through it, and later through the Society for the State Registration, the Registration Campaign. If gratitude did not prompt Miss Cox-Davies to express appreciation of the great work of this noble woman, decency might have prevented her from detraction of that work, and from an endeavour to appropriate credit for its result for the College Company.

Nothing is more false than to accuse the promoters of State Registration of Nurses of being unorganised, quarrelsome, divided. Their Societies—united since 1910 with the British Medical Association in the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses—worked most

harmoniously for the promotion of State Registration. The apple of discord was thrown by the College Company in 1916, when it sought to make the nominated Council of this Company the governing body of the Nursing Profession, and the nurses' societies emphatically rejected the proposal.

It was this demand of the College Company which caused its friends in the House of Commons to wreck Major Barnett's Bill on the Report stage. After declaring, on the Second Reading, through their chosen representative, that they "could not and would not oppose the State Registration of Nurses, or offer any opposition whatever to this Bill," when it came through the Committee stage without the representation of the free Nurses' Organisations on the first General Nursing Council having been eliminated, the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., circularised its members, in a statement signed by its Secretary, urging them to "write to any Member of Parliament you know . . . to beg him earnestly not to support the Bill." That was the policy supported by Miss Cox-Davies, and the policy which the free organisations of nurses opposed with an unbroken front. Divisions in our ranks were made by those whose policy, ever since the days when John Bunyan presented the world with the portraits of "Mr. Worldly Wiseman" and "Mr. Facing-both-ways," has been rightly accorded the scorn and contempt of honourable people.

### CITY NURSES LOVE ST. PAUL'S.

Canon Alexander has issued an urgent appeal for help to preserve the fabric of St. Paul's Cathedral from the dangers which threaten it. £100,000 is required. Surely there should be some competent authority to watch vigilantly the structure of our national churches, and to carry out continuous restoration! City Nurses love St. Paul's and will wish to give a helping hand.

### HAY FEVER.

Dr. Balzer has communicated to the Académie de Médecine a new method of treating hay fever, which has been discovered by Dr. Barcat, and has given excellent results. The malady, which is due to excessive sensibility to the pollen of certain plants of the mucous membranes of the eyes or nose, does not yield readily to the usual therapeutic treatment. Dr. Barcat has obtained better and more rapid results by submitting the membranes to the influence of radium or X-rays.

### TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

Overheard in the street last Saturday:—  
'Arriet (reading yellow poster): "'Keep to the left,' indeed. Blooming cheek, I calls it. Never a 'with yer leave' or 'by yer leave.' I ain't going to take no notice until these Johnnies says 'please.'"

Hann: "And me with no left h'eye! Right yer are, 'Arriet.'"

And these two exponents of British freedom proceeded with stately tread to barge into the flock of sheep trotting "left," according to order.

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