

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

There was a large attendance of Nurses at the Annual Meeting of the Scottish Nurses' Association, on Saturday, 4th inst. Dr. McGregor Robertson, President of the Association, presided, and after the ordinary business of the meeting was over, Miss Macdonald, Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, addressed the members. In commencing, she thanked Dr. McGregor Robertson for his kind words when introducing her, and said that she regarded it as a very great honour to have been invited to speak at the Annual Meeting of the Association, which had behind it such splendid traditions in connection with the evolution of nursing as a profession, and which had done so much for the welfare of nurses. She was charged with a message from H.R.H. the President of the Association and the Members in London. They had asked her to convey to the Scottish Nurses' Association their warmest good wishes for its continued prosperity.

Miss Macdonald took, as the subject of her address the word "Vision"—a lovely faculty—for when it became the possession of every individual member of the profession there was no limit to what might be won. Joined to Barrie's lovely virtue of courage it would yet clear away abuses and difficulties which were hampering the profession to-day, which kept it ever lagging behind other professions although, to the hands of the nurses, there lay ready every piece of machinery with which to make their profession great, with which to secure to themselves opportunity, freedom and economic independence.

Miss Macdonald reviewed the history of the efforts made in the past to organise the nurses, and showed how there had been a most determined effort on the part of the authorities of most of the large hospitals to prevent organisation. Many of them had been the strongest opponents of State Registration and yet, now, by means of Rule 9A, they had set themselves to capture authority through the very Act which had cost the nurses so much owing to their persistent opposition in the past.

One great difficulty in connection with the efforts to organise the profession was that, in most cases, the nurses were paid so badly that it was practically impossible for them to obtain the breadth of vision that other women possessed. Such low remuneration kept them in a position which was far too dependent, and also it shut for them many doors for the enlargement of experience and vision.

After reviewing other facts in connection with nursing conditions, Miss Macdonald said that these facts, if nurses only have the vision to realise what they involve, should give a great urge to the Scottish Nurses to approach the election of their governing body with clear thinking, clear vision, and strong intention to use their votes

conscientiously in the direction which they honestly consider to be in the best interests of the nurses.

Dr. McGregor Robertson spoke eloquently of the long struggle to obtain the Act for State Registration, of the sacrifice and the unceasing labour and effort it had involved, of the disappointments, the hopes and then the disappointments again which had been bound up with the movement for State Registration until at last the Acts were passed. The success won did not come up to the ideals of those who had worked for so long, because it had been hoped that there would be one united Act for the three kingdoms. To-day the nurses were reaping the fruits of all the labour of many years when, for the first time, they were exercising the great privilege of voting for those who would govern the profession for the next five years. The candidates put forward by the Scottish Association were not chosen because they belonged to any special party. They were chosen because, in the opinion of those by whom they had been asked to stand, they were representative of varied branches of the profession, and were likely to have a policy which would prove helpful to the progress of the profession.

Several candidates for election addressed the meeting and later, while partaking of the very delightful tea provided at the Club, there was much pleasant conversation between nurses from many parts of Scotland, who seldom have opportunity for such discussions.

TO DREADNOUGHT NURSES.

Nurses trained at the "Dreadnought" between the years 1900 and 1910 are being refused admission to the first Register of Nurses owing to the way in which the Regulations have been framed. The result is that many Nurses who have received far less training than yourselves are accepted by the Nursing Council while you are excluded. In my efforts on your behalf I am much hampered by the fact that I am unable to get into communication personally with many of you. It will be of the greatest assistance if every Dreadnought Nurse trained in those years, who wishes to be placed on the Register, will communicate with me with the least possible delay.

ALICE MARY HALL,
Matron.

It is to be hoped that when the correspondence with the Scottish Nursing Council on the proposed Rule 9 (b) is submitted to the English Council, as it should have been before this date, it will be found possible that a Rule may be agreed to include the "Dreadnought" Nurses, to whom Miss Hall alludes. The recognition of Conjoint Certificates has hitherto included one year's training in a women's hospital, when two years have been spent in a hospital for men only.

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