

It was reported that, so far, the Rule 21 (3) (D) had not been signed, and a new Rule had been sent to the General Nursing Council for consideration.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Executive Committee dealt chiefly with events which have already been reported in the official organ of the Corporation as they occurred.

It was stated that the alterations at the Settlement Home were now completed. The Home had been entirely redecorated, a new bathroom and hot-water system had been installed, new linoleum laid down throughout the house, and in every respect the property was in first-class repair.

Outside the Association's activities, the Report had reference to the decision of the Minister of Health not to sign the Syllabus of General Training, thereby causing it to be merely advisory and not obligatory. Arising out of the Report it was agreed that the Medical Parliamentary Committee of the House of Commons be asked to receive a Deputation from the Association, to lay before them the views of the Association in relation to the matters connected with Registration and Nursing Education.

A Prescribed Training.

The following letter has been forwarded to the Minister of Health in accordance with an instruction from the Executive Committee:—

SIR,—My Executive Committee have learnt with regret of your decision not to append your signature to the Syllabus of Training for Nurses on the General Part of the Register, drafted by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. They consider that this decision and the failure of the Syllabus to receive the statutory power which would accrue to it from being laid before each of the Houses of Parliament is a serious blow to the prestige and advancement of Nursing Education in England. As the matter stands at present, the Syllabus will be merely advisory, and Hospitals, recognised by the General Nursing Council as Training Schools, will not be required to carry out the prescribed training provided for in the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919. Thus Nurses, entering upon their training, will be deprived of the right, actually accorded to them in the Act, to claim from their Hospitals a prescribed training preparatory to entering for the State Examination. My Committee consider that it is not only in the interests of the public that there should be a prescribed scheme for nursing education and training, but they hold, strongly, the view that it will enhance the status of the Profession of Nursing, and will attract to it women of the best general education if, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, "the prescribed training shall be carried out in an institution recognised by the Council"—see Section 3 (2) (b).

Further, my Committee desire me to point out that it is derogatory to the professional status

of the nurses on the General Part of the Register that, while Ministerial approval and Statutory recognition are granted to the Syllabus of Training for Nurses on the Supplementary Registers, such approval and recognition are withheld in connection with nurses whose names are placed on the General part of the Register.

My Committee respectfully urge that you will reconsider the whole position and provide that the "prescribed scheme of training" shall be carried out.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ISABEL MACDONALD, *Secretary.*

LECTURE.

"Florence Nightingale."

We had a very delightful lecture on Saturday evening last, when Miss Kathleen Smith, Matron of the London Temperance Hospital, gave an address on "Florence Nightingale."

Major Rigg, O.B.E. (Chairman of the London Temperance Hospital) presided, and said that Miss Smith had made a special study of Florence Nightingale, who was such a great pioneer in British nursing. He sketched shortly the progress of nursing from the days when she gave to it the modern impulse. He referred to the establishment of the Registration Acts and advised the nurses to see that these Acts were not misused or defeated by weak administration.

Miss Smith gave a comprehensive survey of the life of Florence Nightingale, of her characteristics and aspirations, of her great work in the Crimea, and of the activities of her declining years. We all felt, as she closed, that she had given us many glimpses of episodes in the life of this great Englishwoman, of which we knew little before. One American lady was particularly delighted with the lecture, and said, "We did so enjoy it. I have heard no woman give such a lecture in America. I was just thrilled."

THE NAPOLEON COTERIE.

We remind our members that the Napoleon Coterie is to hold its annual meeting at 194, Queen's Gate on Saturday, May 5th, at 4.45 p.m. Mr. Graham Bennet, a descendant of Captain Bennet, who was with the English garrison at St. Helena, will take the chair. Mr. H. S. A. Foy, C.C., whose ancestors were also closely connected with Napoleon, will be one of the speakers! Mrs. Woodrow (widow of the late chairman of the Napoleon Coterie) and Major Rigg, O.B.E., will also speak. Major Rigg hopes to be able to procure a number of the Napoleon relics for the inspection of those present, so that we shall have a very interesting meeting indeed. The Coterie have pleasure in extending to members of the Royal British Nurses' Association a cordial invitation to attend.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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