

the Chairman, that the only Amendment upon which a division was taken was that in relation to the Qualifications of Persons to be elected. An Amendment was here moved to incorporate the proposal for the restrictive scheme of election, and to take away another open seat, leaving only one unrestricted.

When the Committee divided there voted for the Chairman's proposal for an open election:—Major Sir Richard Barnett, Mr Hurst, Major-General Sir Richard Luce, Miss Wilkinson, and Mr. Robert Wilson, and against it Colonel Fremantle (St. Albans) and Sir Charles Forestier-Walker (Monmouth) in spite of the clear evidence which these gentlemen had before them that all the Nurses' Organisations desired the open election.

Registered Nurses who were present at the meetings of the Select Committee could not but recognise that their colleagues who gave evidence had to face the task of converting a very hostile Committee.

NURSING ECHOES.

Now that the Nurses' Registration Acts have been in force for nearly six years, it is high time that Government Departments controlling Nursing Services, and Nurse Training Schools when advertising for officials, made it a *sine-qua non* that they require State Registered Nurses to fill these official positions. So far, we cannot call to mind that one Government Department, or one hospital committee has advertised for State Registered Nurses, and we are the more pleased, therefore, to note that an advertisement for a Matron for the District Asylum, Downpatrick, makes this the first qualification. We hope English authorities will follow this good example.

It goes without saying that all private nurses supplied to the public should be registered by the State. Upon the passing of the Acts the Registered Nurses' Society, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1, at once adopted this professional status. We learn now, with pleasure, that the Nurses' Co-operation, Langham Street, W. 1, has made this standard obligatory for the future. We hope other co-operations will do the same.

The Report of the proceedings of the Conference on the Nursing Service in Mental Hospitals, convened by Sir Frederick Willis, K.C.B., C.B., Chairman of the Board of Control, between the Commissioners of the Board, and Visiting Committees and Medical Superintendents of County and Borough Mental Hospitals, Managing Committees and Medical Superintendents of Registered Mental Hospitals, the General Nursing Council, the Royal British Nurses Association, the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association, and other Associations of Nurses, the Metropolitan Asylums Board and other bodies, held at Burlington House, Burlington Gardens, in April last, is now published, and may be obtained from His Majesty's Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2, price 9d. The Conference was called "to consider the Nursing Service in Mental Hospitals, with special reference to the recommendations made in the report of the Departmental Committee set up by the Board of Control in 1922."

The Conference was opened by the Minister of Health, the Right Hon. Arthur Neville Chamberlain, M.P., and it is interesting to place on record some of the views then expressed by the Minister.

He said in part, after expressing the hope that some practical result was going to come out of the labours of the Committee, "I may perhaps remind you that when I last held my present office I was responsible for a Mental Treatment Bill. A Bill was introduced in the House of Lords, it passed through that House, and came to the House of Commons, but unfortunately like many other innocents, including a number of Members of Parliament, it disappeared in the General Election of 1923. . . . I believe that a measure of that kind might do a good deal to check and to stem the progress of insanity, and personally I trust very much that it may be my good fortune, before I too disappear in my turn, to add a measure of that kind to those which already have their place on the Statute book.

Miss McIntosh, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Miss E. A. Smith, Sister-in-Charge, were "At Home" at the recently opened Preliminary Training School, 24, King Square, Goswell Road, E.C., on Saturday last, when the School was on view.

The first class of probationers number 12, but ordinarily 20 will be admitted every seven weeks. They pay a fee of six guineas for the course, including a certain amount of personal laundry, the tuition lasts for six weeks, and the seventh week is occupied with examinations.

The Home looked fresh and bright with its pretty grey and blue papers, and blue paint, and those who were acquainted with the block of houses which were formerly the Special Probationers' Home, were specially interested to see how the ground at the back had been utilised for the purposes of the School. There is first a demonstration room, with bed, full-sized Chase Doll, and cupboards containing instruments, appliances, indeed everything necessary to teach the pupils what they will need to know when they enter the wards. Nor are the care of a linen cupboard, and the teaching of bandaging forgotten.

Next is the lecture room with desks for each pupil, and then the School of Cookery where demonstrations and two practice classes are given every week by Miss Georgina Knight, trained at King's, and at the School of Cookery, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. Miss Knight also teaches hygiene, anatomy, and physiology, the other classes being given by Miss Smith, who has held the positions of Sister Luke and Sister Darker at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and is keenly interested in teaching.

The pupils breakfast at 7.30, and do an hour's housework each morning as well as attending classes. They are off duty every day from 3-6, and write up lectures, &c., in the evening. They are off duty at 3 o'clock every Saturday and the whole of Sunday.

A Sister-Tutor, Miss M. Hitch, has also been appointed to teach the probationers in the hospital itself. She holds the Certificate of the Hospital, and is a State Registered Nurse. As a member of the T.F.N.A. she worked at Salonika from 1914-1919 and holds the Sister-Tutors' Diploma of King's College for Women, and has been Sister-Tutor at the Cardiff Royal Infirmary for three years.

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