

which were brought forward by members of the Association. These matters concerned the salaries and the qualifications of Health Visitors under the Education Authorities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. Replies were received from each, and it was found that on the whole uniformity generally prevailed, both as to salaries paid and qualifications required of candidates. Another matter which the Executive Committee inquired into was the Certification and Registration of Health Visitors by the Scottish Board of Health, especially in relationship to the position of nurses holding the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, London. This latter correspondence is still being carried on.

The Executive Committee Meetings have been invariably very largely attended, and the members of the Committee have shown very keen interest in all matters concerning the welfare and professional interests of nurses. It is felt, however, that members of the Association are not making sufficient use of their opportunities of bringing before the Executive Committee questions of material interest to the nursing profession, and the Committee hope that members of the Association will not hesitate to communicate with them on any matter whatever of interest to nurses.

The financial position of the Association is very satisfactory.

#### The President's Address.

Mrs. Strong spoke as follows:—

Having been invited to become a member of the Council of the British College of Nurses, I went to London somewhat of a doubting Thomas, but became convinced that nurses had found a friend of understanding mind. I did not doubt the Academic side of the College, that was thoroughly understood, and its organisation fully detailed.

I did doubt its being in the power of any individual who had not lived a nurse's life to understand her difficulties, and the inability of the majority to make adequate provision for old age, and for premature disability to continue work, even though they spent considerable sums in Insurance premiums.

Nursing is a humanitarian work, not lucrative. If women made this the main object we should have but few nurses. The percentage of lucrative positions is small.

If I understand the mind of our generous donor aright, this has been fully realised, and also the impossibility of their maintaining a College without an endowment, and how to help in both ways without injury to self-respect must have cost much thought. I think the Donor has succeeded in both. The capital will remain untouched for all time, and the nurses must provide the upkeep if they want a College.

There has been much clamour for professional status, and it has been gained. . . . When this great Gift came I hailed it with joy, as nursing had made such rapid strides of late, and there are so many important positions, unthought of a few years ago, which require higher education, and which by the help of bursaries, scholarships, &c., will be open to those who have the brain power to attain them.

Financial help in a time of need is a more delicate matter and I think it has been met. A Benevolent Fund has been formed which will be available to members after a year's membership, and a Scheme has been started for giving two Pensions annually to necessitous Members from the year 1936.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in addressing a Meeting of Nurses recently remarked that British Nurses coming from other countries for a Collegiate Post-Graduate Course had to go to America to obtain this, and hoped this reproach would soon be removed by the foundation of such a Course in

our own College. She also spoke of the legal protection the College will give to its Members, which is very different to merely giving advice.

Her closing words were: "It is neither good, nor is it very possible for a great organisation to grow up suddenly. We must go to work slowly and patiently, and build up an organisation which will be of lasting value."

Suitable accommodation has yet to be fixed upon, but it is wonderful what has been accomplished in the one room at 431, Oxford Street, London, which will be memorable as the room in which the initial work has been done. The Council has been formed there, its first meetings held there, and in the five months of its existence, in addition to the Schemes mentioned, Committees for the special branches of the work have been formed, the Secretary appointed, and many days of arduous thought have been spent in it. It will remain a sacred spot to us.

I trust we shall fully recognize the debt of gratitude we owe to both Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, as well as to the giver of this princely Gift, as the money was given on the condition that Dr. Fenwick would act as a Trustee, and would help to administer it, which he is most faithfully doing. Many would have sought retirement instead of undertaking such onerous duties late in life. Think of what we should have lost had they refused, as the money would have gone elsewhere.

You will observe in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING that although the Finance Committee is appointed by the Council, the Treasurer will be the permanent Chairman, representing the Trustees, thereby giving great security in our spendings.

I have given you my impressions, but it is for you to judge for yourselves and this you can do by carefully reading the reports of the proceedings of the College.

A copy of this JOURNAL which is the official organ of the College, is sent free of charge to each Fellow and Member. The fullest details of each Meeting of the Council are given therein.

#### Votes of Thanks.

A cordial vote of thanks to Mrs. Strong for presiding, and for her address, was proposed by Miss Ritchie Thomson, who said it was a pleasure to her and the other nurses who could associate their training days with Mrs. Strong to find that she was still in the forefront of the nursing world. She dwelt on her pioneering days, and how widely Mrs. Strong's name was known at home and abroad as a pioneer and earnest worker for the profession.

A vote of thanks to the Management Committee of the Scottish Nurses' Club was proposed by Dr. Patrick for permitting the Association to hold its meeting at the Club.

Both motions were warmly received and carried.

#### THE IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association, 19, Parnell Square, Dublin, was held on Wednesday evening, November 17th, at Nurses' Club, 54 Fitzwilliam Square (by kind permission).

A most interesting and instructive lecture was delivered by Dr. Crichton on "Ultra Violet Rays." There was a splendid attendance of nurses from the different hospitals, homes, Public Health Departments, &c., and all were enthusiastic in according warm appreciation to Dr. Crichton for having given the members such an instructive and enjoyable treat.

A very hearty vote of thanks on the motion of Miss Gregory (President) was passed to the lecturer, Dr. Crichton, after which tea was served and a sociable hour or two passed, Dr. Crichton kindly answering many questions put to him by the members in regard to his lecture.

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