

object to all rules and regulations after they have passed out of their training schools or finished training, unless the pendulum swings back.

The Chairman then called upon the Opposer, Miss Amy Phipps:—

Miss Amy Phipps supports living out.

Miss Amy Phipps, in supporting the proposition that hospital nurses should live out, said that there was probably no subject which would evoke greater and more varied criticism at the present time in the nursing world than that now under discussion, especially from those responsible for the administration of hospitals.

She said, further, that during her visit to Canada for the International Congress of Nurses at Montreal last year, she was extremely interested in the various views expressed at a gathering in which many nationalities were represented. One superintendent of nurses of a large hospital in the United States of America approved strongly of the living out system, especially in closely packed and in growing areas. She expressed some surprise when she (Miss Phipps) agreed with her, but said, quite frankly, that she did not think hospital authorities in England would consider such a proposition. "I guess," she said, "because your Matrons would think it looked like loss of power, or abdication almost." Another, a Matron of a European hospital, dismissed the idea at once without consideration, as "an economic impossibility and altogether undesirable in any case."

Miss Phipps put before the audience the picture of a girl entering a nursing school full of enthusiasm. She finishes her training and has enjoyed the life under discipline; would like to go on with hospital work and is probably a valuable member of the staff, but is appalled at the idea of living in this cramped atmosphere indefinitely, of "getting like Sister, who has not an original thought," though they all love her. What shall she do?

Miss Phipps expressed the opinion that an arrangement by which hospital nurses and sisters could live out, on inclusive salaries, might prove a valuable asset to the Nursing Profession; and in regard to the nurse herself, "consider," she said, "the effect upon her of a life lived in an atmosphere where much of her off-duty time, as well as her work time, is spent with members of the same profession, if not with the same people. Even to-day, with greater facilities for recreation, the tendency to gossip about work, senior officers and colleagues in off-duty time is intensely prevalent, various grievances are magnified, and the mind is unrefreshed for return to work."

Miss Phipps strongly believed that the benefit to the State Registered Nurse of living out would be inestimable, that the system, once established, would do a great deal to increase the number of suitable recruits to the Nursing Profession, and would help to retain many valuable women in the hospitals, who, for domestic reasons, must live out. She believed that the health of the nurse would improve both mentally and physically, her sense of proportion would be adjusted, and she would be less likely to suffer from boredom which was usually the result of lack of change and the worst enemy of efficiency.

Discussion.

A discussion followed in which the following took part:

Miss E. F. Brownsdon agreed in part with the Proposer and in part with the Opposer. She thought that probationers in training should live in, they needed proper supervision, and they needed mothering. This was only possible when they were living in a proper environment, with a suitable Home Sister, and if they lived in a Nurses' Home.

When it came to trained nurses she agreed with Miss Phipps. People who have lived in hospital all their lives, adopt a very narrow point of view; if they knock about the world they become more tolerant, therefore she considered the time had come when trained nurses and sisters should "live out," they could then mix more with the outside world. There would not be that attitude that what the hospital says is right, and everyone else wrong. Facilities should be given to trained nurses to live out.

Miss Spencer Jones was of opinion that probationers should live in hospital, as a matter of training and discipline; it was a relief to their parents to know that they were under proper control.

The Nurses' Home should be a "home." In the larger hospitals she advocated that the dining-room should be run on restaurant lines; in the smaller hospitals it was different, the Matron gave the catering her personal supervision. Trained nurses should, she considered, have the option to live in or out. She was of opinion that the Superannuation Scheme would induce the majority to remain in.

Her reasons against nurses living out were that it was impossible to ensure that the nurses had proper rest, or attention when indisposed.

Miss Stewart Bryson expressed the view that hospital authorities would have to consider the question of senior nurses living out.

Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C., gave her experience of mobilising a T.A.N.S. hospital in Southsea during the War. Ninety-five trained ladies lived out who had to be vaccinated and inoculated, and she spent time which she should have spent in hospital going round to see them.

When a nurse was in training the Matron took the place of the girl's mother, and it was for her benefit that the Matron should know where she was. Because one lived in hospital she saw no reason to be narrow.

Miss Henrietta Ballard was of opinion that nurses should live in. Speaking from a Sister Tutor's point of view she enquired when Nurses' Lecture Notes would get written if they were allowed to live out.

Miss Bushby and Miss Phipps having replied, the Chairman, in summing up, pointed out the economic side of the question. Where was the money coming from, she asked, for Nurses to live out? Not from their parents. It would be a very costly system. She put forward the suggestion that now nurses were members of a profession, and registered by the State after State Examinations, the Nurses' Homes should rank as Collegiate Residences, as those of medical students did. If the Nurses' Home was named the Nurses' College, the atmosphere would be entirely different, more academic, and less that of the nursery. In the future nurses might be called upon to pay for their tuition.

On the question "Should Nurses Live In or Out?" being put to the meeting, the large majority of those present proved to be in favour of living in.

AN INTERESTING OPPORTUNITY.

Miss Isabel Macdonald Chairman of the Social Schemes Standing Committee of the British College of Nurses, and Secretary of the Royal British Nurses Association, is arranging a conjoint Ramble to Canterbury on Wednesday, March 12th for Fellows and Members of the B.C.N., and Members of the R.B.N.A., which promises to be particularly delightful. The journey by char-a-banc is through lovely country. The time to be spent in the City is being planned to the best advantage, and the Sub-Dean will meet the party at the Cathedral, and show them various things not usually seen by visitors.

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