

seconded, the following resolution:—"That an exception be made to the rule, requiring three years' Hospital training as necessary for Registration or membership of the R.B.N.A. in the case of District Nurses, and that one year's Hospital and six months' District training, with an additional eighteen months' District work under superintendence, be a sufficient qualification." A spirited discussion followed, in which it was pointed out that numbers of Nurses were now attempting to join the Association and were bitterly disappointed at finding themselves ineligible; that to take these Nurses in, would greatly strengthen the Association in numbers, and that as the three years under superintendence was involved in the new proposal, there was no real lowering of the standard. On the other hand, it was argued that if the length of Hospital training was lowered for one class it must be lowered for others; that the Association had given incalculable help to Hospital Matrons desirous of improving their standard of training by the firm stand which it had taken on the three years' system; and that this very month the Lords' Committee had pronounced authoritatively in favour of that term of training. Finally the resolution was lost by an overwhelming majority, only five voting in favour of it.

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THE result is most significant, and it may be taken as conclusive proof of the set and fixed determination of the Association to nail its colours to the mast. No one can blame it for being thus resolved to make its membership an honour which only the best trained Nurses can attain. Some years ago, Mr. Editor pointed out that the inevitable tendency of all professional Associations was to continually raise their standard, and he strongly urged all Nurse, to become members of the British Nurses' Association while they could. His predictions have been abundantly justified, for now we are constantly getting letters from Nurses complaining that they had found themselves ineligible for membership, and that, as they had only delayed joining the Association because it was so spoken against, or because they wanted to see whether it would succeed or not, they thought it very hard that they could not now be admitted to the great and growing benefits of membership.

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THE next business was a statement by Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK concerning two additions to the Bye-Laws which are to be proposed at the Annual Meeting; the first providing for the appointment of Permanent Vice-Chairmen of the Executive Committee and General

Council; and the second providing that members who fall into long arrears with their subscriptions should *ipso facto* cease to be members. He pointed out that the Association was so prosperous, and most of the members so punctual in their payments, that there had been no necessity to demand their annual subscriptions, and that, on the other hand, the Association had no power at present to remove from its ranks those who did not fulfil their obligations as members. After some discussion it was decided that it would be well to have a Bye-law that all who were two years in arrears should be removed from the Roll of the Association.

\* \* \*

THE Council unanimously adopted the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Princess Helena Medal of Merit should be presented to Sister HENRIETTA, of Kimberley Hospital, South Africa, in recognition of her important services, to the cause of Nursing, in assisting to obtain the State Registration of Nurses in Cape Colony. All Nurses will feel that the honour has been well deserved, and that the first Gold Medal of Merit for Nurses could not have been more worthily bestowed

\* \* \*

THEN the Scrutineers reported that Miss REEVES has received 113 votes, and Mrs. DIXON 11 votes, and the former lady was, therefore, declared to be duly elected to the second Princess Helena Pension of the Association, of £20 a year. I earnestly congratulate her on her success, and the Association on the quiet and excellent work which it is doing, without any bombastic pretence of philanthropy achieved at some one else's expense.

\* \* \*

DR. BEZLY THORNE finally submitted the Annual Report which was excellent in style and story, and this having been unanimously adopted, for presentation to the Annual Meeting, a cordial vote of thanks to Sir WILLIAM SAVORY concluded a most interesting and important meeting.

\* \* \*

THE Programme of the Annual Meeting of the Association which takes place at Brighton on the 21st inst., foreshadows a very enjoyable day for those who are able to be present at it. It reads as follows:

THE Annual Meeting will, this year, be held in the Lecture Hall of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, at 12 noon, on Thursday, the 21st of July.

AGENDA:

To read and confirm the minutes of the Third Annual Meeting, Report of the General Council.

**Gratis to Nurses, &c.**—Samples and particulars of Loefflund's Milk and Malt products, &c., will be forwarded free to Nurses and Hospital authorities, on application to Loefflund, 14, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

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