

in a separate list of members, those midwifery nurses who have also a certificate of general training to be on both lists. Miss Gow, of St. Helen's Hospital, spoke on behalf of the midwifery nurses, who had been largely instrumental in forming the Association, and said that they would be glad to do anything for the general good of the Association, and that they were assured that this arrangement would make no difference to the privileges of the midwifery nurses in the Association.

It was then proposed that in view of the approaching state registration of mental nurses, an auxiliary branch of mental trained nurses be formed. It was pointed out that as no mental nurses had yet been registered until the results of the examination in progress were determined, this could be held over till a future date.

The interests of mental nurses are at present represented by Miss Beswick, Matron of Seacliff Hospital, and Mrs Milne, Matron of Ashburn Hall, both members of the Association by virtue of their general training.

Miss Maclean was invited to become patroness of the Association, and consented to do so.

Refreshments were provided by a sub-committee, composed of Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. McGregor, Mrs. Milne (all ex-nurses), and Nurse Donald.

A meeting was called to discuss the scheme for the Lady Plunket nurses. A meeting of delegates from the Nursing Association, with the Committee of the League for the Promotion of the Health of Women and Children was arranged, Dr. Will, Miss Thomson, and Miss Jeffreys to be the delegates, and to represent the advisability of fully-trained nurses being appointed.

The deputation to meet the Society for the Promotion of the Health of Women and Children consisted of Dr. Will, Nurses Thomson, Barclay, and Jeffries, and was introduced by Dr. Williams. The case was put and discussed, and an assurance was given that no more uncertificated nurses would be appointed.

The following are copies of the letter sent by the Nursing Association to Her Excellency Lady Plunket, and her reply to it:—

TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION,  
Box 128, Dunedin, 7th April, 1908.  
To Her Excellency Lady Plunket,  
Government House, Auckland.

Madam,—I am instructed by my Council to write to you concerning the degree of

training which is, at present, suggested to be given to nurses training for the honoured title of "Lady Plunket Nurses."

As these nurses are to bear your Excellency's name, we consider that it is but right that the nurses should have gone through a course of training and discipline under doctors and fully-trained nurses, who would instil into them all those points of efficiency, courtesy, and honourable conduct which are expected from women belonging to the noble profession of nursing.

Women who have not been educated up to the traditions of their profession would soon be found wanting in everything that goes to the making of a good nurse. We, therefore, respectfully desire that it may be your wish that "Lady Plunket Nurses" should have previously obtained their certificates at one of the hospitals recognised by Government as a training school for nurses.

As a 'Trained Nurses' Association we could not otherwise admit them as members, and that alone would seem to cast a slur on a title which should be regarded with the highest honour.

Again, the public, holding your name in honour, will naturally think that the nurses bearing it are the best obtainable in New Zealand, and will refer to them for advice in all kinds of ailments affecting their children or themselves, of whatever nature.

If these nurses are not fully trained they will not be in a position to give reliable advice, and much harm may be done and valuable time lost before seeking a doctor's aid.

We do not wish to protest against the existing rights of Nurse McKinnon, who, we recognise, has had exceptional advantages under the immediate tutorship of Dr. Truby King, advantages which no woman in future can possibly have, even with a year's training at Karitane.

We respectfully solicit your earnest consideration of these points, and hope soon to have a body of nurses among us, bearing an honoured name, who have been trained to live up to the highest traditions of their profession, and whose title will ensure for them the respect alike of the medical profession, their fellow-nurses, and the public generally.

I have the honour to be, Madam,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

(Signed) C. G. JEFFREYS,

Hon. Secretary.