

bers on the important national work for which they are associated together.

NEW MEMBERS.

Applications for membership* were then considered, and 192 Matrons and trained nurses were elected, a list of whom will appear next week.

The meeting then terminated.

Progress of State Registration.

Mr. Sydney Holland's statement in another column that many more signatures of medical men, hospital committeemen, and of Matrons in their employ have been received to the anti-Registration manifesto does not surprise us, nor will it surprise anyone who has read history, and who knows that invariably those who work for progress have to face opposition in high places. Nor need it dismay us, for past history proves abundantly that, in spite of all the force which potentates and powers have been able to bring against movements which have their root in evolution, everything eventually goes down before the power of this principle. Opposition may delay, it cannot prevent, righteous reform, and though every Matron in the Kingdom, at the instigation of the Central Hospital Council for London, opposed State Registration of Nurses this would not disturb us, for their position would not be that of the leaders of nursing thought and progress. Those Matrons who have signed the anti-Registration manifesto appear before the public not as voicing the desires of the nurses, but as representative of their employers, standing at bay, and striving to stem the oncoming tide of feeling amongst the rank and file, by which they will inevitably be overwhelmed. Mr. Holland need not fear that we shall not give publicity to the names of those who are standing between nurses and their rightful liberties. When the manifesto, with all the signatures which can be secured to it, is sent to the Press we promise him we will put on record every one, and hand them down to the future generations of nurses who will enjoy the privileges for which we are now fighting.

Meanwhile, we will name those who are the active executive in the opposition to Registration. Mr. Charles Burt, Chairman of the Royal Free Hospital, and Chairman of the Central Hospital Council for London; Mr. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, and Miss Lückes, the Matron; Dr. Allchin, of the Westminster Hospital; and Miss Monk, Sister-Matron of King's College Hospital.

As we have reported, the Council of which Mr. Charles Burt is chairman consists of thirty-six men—three nominated by each of the committees of the twelve London hospitals with medical schools attached. Managers, medical men, and secretaries compose it. But as there are no nurses on this Council, it has neither knowledge nor right to voice our views. It is, in fact, formed entirely of men

who employ nurses in the capacity of servants, *but to whom the industrial laws do not apply.*

Under the rule of this Council relating to expenses we find it stated: "The constituent Hospitals shall be invited to contribute equally to the annual expenses." Quite so. Money subscribed by charitable persons shall be used for other purposes than those for which it is given. Now we must call upon Mr. Charles Burt to at once make a public announcement as to how his anti-Registration campaign is being financed, and to reassure the charitable public on one point—that *not one penny of their charitable subscriptions shall be diverted from the uses of the sick* to pay for this unjustifiable opposition to the demand of hundreds of nurses that they shall be legally distinguished from murderers, abortion-mongers, prostitutes, thieves, drunkards, and other criminals who now, without let or hindrance, pose and act as trained nurses, to the disgrace of a noble calling, and to the injury of the public.

Many of these men who are opposing State Registration of Nurses authorised the expenditure of hundreds of pounds to prevent the granting of a Royal Charter to the Royal British Nurses' Association. *Where did that money come from?* Anyway, we advise the "constituent hospitals" that we shall call for the audited accounts of the "Central Council," and have no fear but that we shall have the sympathy of the public in our contention that, as the nurses are paying to support their demand for State Registration, their rich and powerful opposers shall not be permitted to fight women with charitable funds.

The London Hospital has always been the *fons et origo* of the anti-Registration movement, but before we cross swords with it on the Registration question, which, from the attitude assumed by the Central Hospital Council, is speedily developing into an industrial war, let Mr. Holland and Miss Lückes tell the public how many thousands of pounds of the earnings of probationers and nurses, have been poured into the coffers of the hospital during the last twenty years. Unless they can disprove our accusation, that they have utilised the earnings of poor working women towards the maintenance of the hospital, they cannot oppose the demands of trained nurses for organisation and just industrial conditions of work from a disinterested standpoint.

Dr. Allchin's recent action in depriving Dr. Ethel Vernon of a position for which she had proved herself eminently qualified, solely on the ground that she was a woman, is fresh in the minds of all, and stamps the type of man who wages war against defenceless nurses.

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