

Miss A. M. Macdonnell, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent, Richmond Hospital, Dublin.

Miss Fitzpatrick, Lady Superintendent Adelaide Hospital, Dublin.

Mrs. Kildare-Treacy, Lady Superintendent City of Dublin Nursing Institute.

Miss S. E. Hampson, Lady Superintendent Portobello House, Dublin.

Dr. Ernest White, President Medico-Psychological Society.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Chairman Board of Examiners of Nurses, British Gynæcological Society.

Dr. H. W. Langley Browne, President Midland Medical Society.

The Lady Ottoline Morrell.

Mrs. H. J. Tennant, formerly H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories.

Mrs. Farquharson of Haughton, F.R.M.S.

Mrs. Dingwall Fordyce.

Mrs. T. K. Buchanan.

Mrs. Alec Tweedie.

Mrs. Charles Greenwood.

Mrs. Charles Douglas.

Miss Shaw-Lefevre.

#### WORK OF THE SOCIETY DURING THE YEAR.

In accordance with the Resolution passed at the last Annual Meeting, a Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was drafted by the Executive Committee and submitted to a Special General Meeting on November 28th, 1903. Copies of this Draft Bill were widely circulated to the Committees of Hospitals with Training-schools attached, Medical and Nursing Associations, and Women's Societies, with a covering letter inviting their consideration of its clauses.

A very limited number of these letters were acknowledged, or replies received thereto, from the General Hospitals, but the Nurses' and Medical Societies and Public Bodies evinced an intelligent interest in the question.

Various suggestions were made for the amendment of the Bill, which were considered by the Executive Committee on January 21st, 1904, and an Amended Draft Bill, which had been revised and put into the form required by Parliamentary usage by a Parliamentary draughtsman, was placed before a Special General Meeting of Members on January 23rd, 1904, when it was finally adopted.

Upon the invitation of Miss Louisa Stevenson, our President, Dr. Farquharson, Member for West Aberdeenshire, most kindly consented to introduce our Bill into the House of Commons, which he did on February 15th, 1904.

The Bill was influentially backed by the following Members of Parliament:—Sir Thomas Wrightson, Bart., Sir James Joicey, Bart., Sir John Batty Tuke, M.D., Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, K.C., Mr. Hugh Crawford Smith, J.P., Mr. R. C.

Munro Ferguson, J.P., Mr. H. J. Tennant, Mr. Alexander W. Black, W.S., Mr. C. E. H. A. Colston, J.P., Mr. H. Trelawney Eve, K.C., and Dr. Thompson.

The Bill has been down for a second reading on several occasions, but has not been reached, as no place was secured in the ballot for its discussion, and as it has been blocked by Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, acting for the opposition, it cannot be discussed as non-contentious business after twelve o'clock.

#### THE OPPOSITION TO STATE REGISTRATION.

On January 26th, the Central Hospital Council for London, which is a society composed of three lay or medical representatives of the twelve Metropolitan Hospitals having medical schools attached, but on which nurses are not represented, passed the following Resolution:—

**“That this Council is opposed to any State Registration of Nurses, and that steps be taken on behalf of the Council to oppose any Bill in Parliament having such Registration for its object.”**

Later, the Council issued an Anti-Registration Manifesto to all Hospitals, Infirmaries, and Nursing Institutions throughout the United Kingdom, expressing a hope that they would support the views therein set forth, and inviting the secretaries to obtain the signatures of Matrons and medical men against the State Registration of Trained Nurses. This Manifesto was also sent to each Member of Parliament.

#### WORK OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BILLS COMMITTEE.

To this Manifesto the Parliamentary Bills Committee drafted two Memoranda; the first, after being widely signed by representative Matrons, nurses, and members of the public, was sent to the hospitals and infirmaries, with a covering letter, asking the Boards of these institutions to consider the nurses' point of view before passing resolutions in opposition to their Registration by the State, a measure which they believe would effect a more systematic education of trained nurses, and protect the interests of the public.

The second, in the form of a reply to the statements contained in the Anti-Registration Manifesto, was forwarded to the 670 Members of Parliament, with a covering letter, asking them to give consideration to the nurses' case, which is an exceedingly strong one, and to support the effort now being made to obtain the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the whole nursing question.

To this request replies have been received from a large number of Members of Parliament representative of all Parties in the House, promising to support the appointment of such a Select Committee.

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