

be examined and registered by the State; and, lastly, be it

Resolved: That it is the duty of the Training-Schools to certify to the qualities of character and moral fitness of candidates for Registration.

At the last meeting of the Council a resolution was passed urging the desirability of the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to enquire into the whole nursing question. Since that time the Committee has not only been appointed, but has met six times and has taken evidence from eight witnesses.

In favour of Registration.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick,
Miss Isla Stewart, Matron St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Miss Huxley, President Irish Nurses' Association.
Mr. M. C. Walshe, Managing Director Male Nurses' Temperance Co-operation.

Miss Annie J. Hobbs, Secretary Royal British Nurses' Association.

Miss Amy Hughes, Superintendent of County Nursing Associations, Q.V.J.I.

Against.

The Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, and

Dr. Norman Moore.

Mr. Charles Burt, Chairman of the Central Hospital Council for London, also handed in papers on behalf of that Council.

In the course of his evidence, Mr. Sydney Holland warned the Committee against accepting the verdict of the Matrons' Council as bearing very great weight, or as representing all the Matrons. It was, he said, a self-elected body. If it was called a Matrons' Council he would not complain, but he considered the title the Matrons' Council misleading. In reply to Major Bagot, he admitted that there was no other Council of Matrons, and that the Matrons' Council was first in the field, and thought it had a right to choose its own name.

At the close of the session the Committee made a Report as follows:—

"The Select Committee appointed to consider the expediency of providing for the Registration of Nurses have agreed to report the minutes of evidence taken before them to the House, with a recommendation that a Committee be appointed in the next Session of Parliament to continue the Inquiry."

The following members have consented to represent the Council on the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland:—Miss Knight, Miss Ross, Miss Cameron, Miss Butler, Miss Marquardt, and Miss M. Brey.

Miss Mollett has been good enough to undertake to make the arrangements for some evening meetings of the Council during the winter months, and Miss Amy Hughes, Superintendent of County Nursing Associations, Affiliated to the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, has consented to address the Council on County Nursing Associations. Miss Mollett will also read a paper.

Miss M. A. Nutting, Hon. Secretary of the American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools has kindly forwarded to the Matrons' Council the Annual Report of that Society, which is on the table to-day.

LETTERS OF REGRET.

Letters of regret at inability to attend were received from Miss Sidney Browne, Matron-in-Chief,

Miss Kough (Bethlem Hospital), Miss Barton (Chelsea Infirmary), Miss Villiers (Fountain Hospital, Tooting), Miss Morgan (Northern Hospital Winchmore Hill), Miss Elma Smith (The Infirmary Hendon), Miss Todd (Bournemouth), Miss Traiforos (Macclesfield), Miss Purvis (Middlesbrough), Miss Hunt (Ipswich), Miss Pell Smith (Leicester), Miss Richmond (Birmingham), Miss Barling (Kidderminster), Miss Richardson (Stockport), Miss Mellor (Lancaster), Miss Greenlaw (Newport), Miss Newman (Belfast).

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The Hon. Secretary reported that in accordance with the directions of the last Council Meeting she had addressed the following letter to two ladies who had signed the Anti-Registration Manifesto of the Central Hospital Council for London, while members of the Matrons' Council, one of the principal objects of which is "To bring about a uniform system of Education, Examination, Certification, and State Registration for Nurses in British Hospitals."

DEAR MADAM,—At the recent meeting of the Matrons' Council attention was drawn to the fact that your signature is appended to a document recently issued opposing the principle of State Registration for Nurses. This appeared to the Council incompatible with your position as a member of a Society pledged to support this reform, and I was therefore desired to send you a copy of the By-Laws (object two, above quoted, being marked), together with the form signed by all applicants for membership of the Council. (I, the undersigned, apply to be elected a member of the Matrons' Council. In the event of my being so elected in consideration thereof, I promise and agree to conform to, and be bound by, the By-Laws and Regulations of the Council.) The Council would be obliged by information from you as to your attitude on this matter—i.e., as to whether you contemplate keeping your name on the Anti-Registration Manifesto or resigning your membership of this Society.

I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

In response the resignations of the two members were received, one expressing her sincere regrets and apologies to the Council, and stating that "Rule 2 had quite slipped her memory when she signed the Anti-Registration Manifesto."

NEW MEMBERS.

Applications for membership were then considered and accepted from—
Miss Frances Ambler-Jones, Matron South-Eastern Hospital, New Cross, S.E.
Miss Lilian Bayly, Matron Royal Boscombe and West Hants Hospital, Boscombe, Bournemouth.
Miss Leah Morris, Lady Superintendent, Stafford Nursing Institution.

HON. MEMBERSHIP.

The appointment of Fraulein Agnes Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association, as an Hon. Member of the Matrons' Council, was then

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