

As the result of this recommendation from the Select Committee on Nursing, it was re-appointed this Session, and commenced taking evidence on April 12th. New members were Major K. Balfour (Christchurch) and Mr. Douglas (N.W. Lanarkshire). Major Bagot and Mr. Arthur Henderson were not re-appointed.

A great deal of interest has been aroused throughout the country, and, at the present time, the Committee is still sitting.

The witnesses who have given evidence so far in support of Registration are:—

FOR THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick.
Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Miss Huxley, late President Irish Nurses' Association.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

Several other members have offered evidence, amongst whom are:—

The Lady Helen Munro Ferguson. From the point of view of the Public.

Miss Mollett and Miss H. L. Pearse, County Hospital Training Schools.

Mrs. Gower, Home Hospitals.

Miss E. M. Roberts, Private Nursing.

FOR THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

Miss A. J. Hobbs, Secretary.

Sir James Crichton Browne.

Dr. Bezly Thorne.

FOR THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.S.

Dr. Langley Browne.

FOR MALE NURSES.

Mr. M. C. Walshe, Secretary of the Male Nurses' Temperance Co-operation.

INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE.

Independent evidence in support of Registration has also been given by—

Dr. Hyla Greves.

Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary International Council of Nurses.

Miss Amy Hughes, Superintendent of County Nursing Associations in connection with the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.

Miss Christina Forrest, Lady Superintendent, Victoria Nurses' Institute, Bournemouth.

Miss Edla R. Wortabet.

Miss Beatrice Kent, an unattached private nurse.

RURAL NURSING ASSOCIATIONS.

Mrs. Charles Hobhouse gave evidence for the Rural Nursing Associations. She did not object to Registration on reasonable lines, but wished the interests of Rural Nurses safeguarded.

Witnesses against the principle of Registration have been:—

Mr. Charles Burt, who handed in a statement on behalf of the Central Hospital Council for London.

The Hon. Sydney Holland.

Dr. Norman Moore.

Miss Lückes, Matron of the London Hospital.

Mr. Upton, Clerk to the Society of Apothecaries.

Dr. Percival Allen and

Dr. Dickenson.

STATEMENTS SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLE OF REGISTRATION.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee, held on October 7th, 1904, it was decided that it was advisable, before the opening of Parliament, to obtain signatures to a statement in favour of the Principle of Registration, and that the statement so signed, as well as other documents, should be handed into the Select Committee on Nursing on behalf of the Society. Miss Mary Burr kindly consented to act as the Hon. Secretary of the sub-committee to organise the signatures. Altogether about 1,800 persons, including many Matrons, Medical Practitioners, and nurses, signed this expression of opinion.

The Hon. Secretary handed in to the Select Committee on May 11th on behalf of the Society—

I. Schedules showing abstracts of the Acts for the Registration of Nurses already passed in British Colonies and the United States of America.

II. Reply of the Society to the Statement made by the Central Hospital Council for London, with a list of some 1,500 matrons and nurses forming the Society.

III. A list of about 1,800 persons—600 Medical Practitioners, Matrons, Nurses, and members of the Public who had signed the following statement.

We, the undersigned, are in favour of the State Registration of Trained Nurses—

1. Because the great development of medical and surgical science necessitates a rising standard of nursing, and it is therefore essential that nurses should give evidence of a minimum amount of technical knowledge before being entrusted with the care of the sick. This can only be enforced by the establishment of an expert Nursing Council to determine the minimum standard of training and to maintain necessary discipline.

2. Because it is of extreme importance to the public that their nurses should be competent and trustworthy, and because the State is the only authority which can provide an effective means whereby they may discriminate between trained and untrained nurses.

IV. Copies of resolutions passed in support of the Principle of the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

V. A brief synopsis of nearly 100 cases in which women described as nurses, and in many cases certainly acting as nurses, have appeared in the dock for criminal offences varying from murder to petty thefts.

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