

The Exclusion of Ireland from the Nurses' Registration Bill.

IRISH NURSES PROTEST.

An extraordinary General Meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association was held at the offices, 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, on Thursday, August 13th, to protest against the proposed exclusion of Ireland from the Nurses' State Registration Bill. All Irish Nurses, whether members of the Association, or not, were cordially invited to attend. The meeting was a very large and representative one, the rooms being taxed to their utmost capacity, and standing accommodation being hardly obtainable.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The President of the Association, Miss L. Ramsden, Matron of the Rotunda Hospital, in opening the meeting, said:

Ladies,—We are assembled here this evening to discuss a matter of vital importance, the proposed exclusion of Ireland from the Nurses' State Registration Bill. She then explained the progress of the Bill introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Ampthill on July 6th, when it unanimously passed its second reading, which, of course, was very good news. She continued: It reached the Committee State on July 21st, when Lord Crewe, the Leader of the House, put forward several amendments, but the one which affects us most seriously is No. 23: "This Act shall not extend to Ireland unless and until it is so extended by an Order in Council under this Section." This, I need hardly say, was a great surprise, and immediately met with strong disapproval in many quarters.

Miss Ramsden then described the action taken by her on behalf of the Association immediately it became known to her that the exclusion of Ireland from the scope of the Bill was proposed, information of which only reached her on July 20th. After discussion with members then in town it was decided that she should write without delay to the Earl of Crewe, the Marquess of Lansdowne, and Lord Ampthill, protesting, on behalf of the Irish Nurses' Association, against the proposed Amendment, and begging their Lordships' assistance.

[It will be remembered that Lord Ampthill, in agreeing provisionally to the Government Amendments proposed by the Earl of Crewe—on the understanding that when the Bill was recommitted it would be open to him to make a few objections—said, "I can promise your Lordships that those objections will be very

few, and they relate principally to the exclusion of Ireland."]

Miss Ramsden then further explained that a meeting of the Executive was summoned for July 30th, when a letter was drafted and directed to be sent to the College of Physicians, the College of Surgeons, and to the Irish Branch of the British Medical Association. A Sub-Committee was also formed to deal further with the matter; which has addressed a letter to the Right Honourable A. Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland, and also President of the Local Government Board in Ireland, asking him to receive a deputation. Letters had also been sent to all the county infirmaries throughout the country.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Miss Ramsden then called on Mrs. Kildare Treacy, Hon. Sec., Executive Committee, I.N.A., to read the letter addressed to Mr. Birrell, and other correspondence.

The letters addressed to the Right Hon. the Earl of Crewe; to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, and the President and members of the Irish Local Government Board; to the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, Ireland; to the Irish Medical Association; and to Clerks of Unions in county towns, secretaries of county infirmaries, and to the secretaries of the Dublin Hospitals, were presented to the meeting. The signatories to all these letters were:—Lucy Ramsden, Matron Rotunda Hospital, President Irish Nurses' Association; B. M. Kelly, Matron Steevens' Hospital; A. M. MacDonnell, R.R.C., Matron Richmond Hospital; L. V. Houghton, Matron Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital; D. L. West, Superintendent, Infirmary, N.D.U.; J. E. Hughes, Matron Portrane Asylum; A. Butler, Matron Portobello House; Mary A. J. Hannan, Matron National Maternity Hospital; M. Huxley, Past President I.N.A.; Mary Lamont, Superintendent Q.V.J.I.; Catherine Wills, Assistant Superintendent Q.V.J.I.; J. Kildare Treacy, Matron City of Dublin Nursing Institution, Hon. Sec. Executive Committee I.N.A.

Mr. Ennis, Assistant Under-Secretary, (whose sad death as the result of an accident occurred on Tuesday) sent an acknowledgment of the letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, stating that the letter would be submitted to Mr. Birrell on his return to Ireland.

The Irish Medical Association forwarded a resolution passed by that body declaring that the exclusion of Ireland, as proposed, would not only be very detrimental to the status of the Irish trained

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