

the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses at its meeting on October the 26th last. The Committee considered the letter in connection with a report presented by its Executive Committee, upon the 7th Draft of the College of Nursing Bill. As a result of its deliberations, the Committee passed a Resolution to the effect that its own Bill is a better Bill than that drafted by the College of Nursing, and should be adhered to.

We were instructed by the Committee to acquaint your Council with this decision, and at the same time to ask your Council whether it would be willing to support the Bill framed by the Central Committee as a joint Bill. The Committee is unable to support the Bill proposed by the College of Nursing, Ltd., even if Clause 5 (3) were deleted, and for the following reasons:—

1. The Committee is of opinion that it is most undesirable that any particular body should be included in the Bill, in the manner in which it is proposed to incorporate the College of Nursing. It would equally object even if the body were any other body—say the Royal British Nurses' Association or the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses—because it is of the opinion that the General Nursing Council should be free and independent of any such influence as would certainly prevail in it were it so intimately associated with an incorporated body as is proposed by the College Bill.

As regards the College of Nursing, Ltd., in particular, the omission of Clause 5 (3) from the Bill will not prevent the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the College from remaining in full force and effect; and with these Articles and Memorandum the Central Committee does not feel itself able to agree. If the College is taken under the protection of an Act of Parliament, its Memorandum and Articles of Association will, by that fact, receive the approval of the Legislature.

2. The Committee objects to the proposed immediate dissolution of the Provisional Council provided for in the College Bill. According to the scheme laid down in that Bill there will be no constituency to elect the General Nursing Council except the nurses on the College Register at the time the Bill becomes law. In the view of the Committee the First (provisional) General Nursing Council should draw up not only the rules provided for in Clause 5 (1) (a) of the College Bill, but all the remainder of the rules, and it should not go out of office till sufficient time has elapsed for the growth of a constituency of Registered Nurses sufficiently extensive and independent.

3. The institution of Supplementary Registers, other than those of Male and Mental Nurses, is, in the opinion of the Committee, certain to lead not only to a many-portal system, instead of the one-portal system which the Committee has always considered to be one of the most essential features of State Registration, but also to a shorter period than the three years which is the minimum period the Committee believes to be necessary for the training of a nurse.

Lastly, the Committee feels bound to state that

it fails to see the necessity of providing for the College of Nursing or any other body in the Registration Bill. It has no objection to offer to the College as an educational institution; but, as such an institution, the College will be but one amongst many, and why should the College be singled out for special favour?

The Committee recognise the educational importance of the College, and, on that ground, is quite willing to provide for its representation on the General Nursing Council.

As the Resolution referred to above states, the Committee is of opinion that its own Bill—which is the outcome of many years' thought and collaboration on the part of a number of societies which are interested in matters connected with the nursing profession—is a better one than that drafted by the College of Nursing, and therefore it invites the College to co-operate with it in its promotion in Parliament.

The Committee's amended Bill is in the hands of the printers, and copies will be forwarded for the information of your Council as soon as they are received.

We are, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

ETHEL G. FENWICK,

Hon. Nurse Secretary.

E. W. GOODALL,

Hon. Medical Secretary.

To Miss M. S. Rundle, R.R.C.,

Secretary, College of Nursing, Ltd.

FROM SECRETARY, COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD., TO  
HON. SECRETARY, CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR  
STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

2nd November, 1918.

DEAR MADAM.—I beg to thank you for your letter of the 1st inst., which shall be placed before the Council of the College at its next Meeting.

I remain, yours faithfully,

M. S. RUNDLE, Secretary.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

6, Vere Street, London, W.,

9th November, 1918.

DEAR MADAM.—Your letter of the 1st inst. was considered by the Council of the College on Thursday last, and I am directed to say at once that no Bill for the State Registration of Nurses will receive the support of the College which does not provide for the inclusion on the first Legal Register (without further fee) of all Nurses on the College Register at the time of the passing of the Act, and, further, for the election of two-thirds of the General Nursing Council by the Nurses upon the General Register under the Act.

Neither of these essential provisions, to which the College is fully pledged, is found in the Bill framed by the Central Committee. Under these circumstances the Council of the College has decided to proceed without delay to promote their own Bill, of which copies have been already furnished to you, with such modifications, if any, as they may judge expedient.

The Council think it right that you should imme-

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