

At a meeting held in Leicester on Monday last, at which nurses were present from six institutions in the town, as well as two nurses who are working amongst the poor in their own homes, the following Resolution was unanimously carried:—

“That in the opinion of this meeting the Registration of Nurses by the State is desirable for their own good and in the best interests of the public.”

The Resolution was proposed by Sister Annie, of the Leicester Infirmary, and seconded by Miss Barriatt, a district nurse.

The City Financiers' Scheme to Control Nurses.

We learn that the Board of Trade proposes in due course to hold an inquiry, at which those who have made objections to the application of the City Financiers for incorporation as the Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses will be given an opportunity of stating the grounds of their opposition in the presence of representatives of the applicants. Trained Nurses will no doubt avail themselves of this opportunity, which their public-spirited and united action has gained for them. We refer our readers to the letter in our Correspondence columns on this subject.

Owing to the great demand for copies of the issue of this journal of February 11th, which contained the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses, it is now sold out. As many of our readers have expressed a desire for copies of our Summary which appeared in that issue, we now reprint it somewhat amplified, so that those who have not time and inclination to wade through the 108 Clauses of the Memorandum may acquaint themselves with its salient features. We are also reprinting in entirety the Memorandum, &c., in pamphlet form, together with our Summary. Copies, price 1d., may be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, Matrons' Council, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

We would remind our readers that had not this document been brought to their notice through the medium of this journal, the nursing profession at large would have remained in ignorance of the scheme until the Board of Trade had given its decision, when any Protest would have been futile. Now, the following Associations of Nurses are opposing the application of the Society for Incorporation:—

The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

The Committee for Promoting the State Registration of Nurses in Scotland.

The Irish Nurses' Association.

The Registered Nurses' Society.

The League of St. John's House Nurses, the Parish of Nottingham Nurses' League, and other Leagues of Nurses.

Matrons and Nurses in the Counties of Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset, and Sussex, and

The Royal British Nurses' Association, incorporated by Royal Charter.

The Directors of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution.

Also the Central Hospital Council for London, a number of Committees of Hospitals and several influential Medical Societies.

Never has the value of organisation been more apparent than at the present crisis. Within ten days from the publication in this journal of the Memorandum, two Societies of Nurses, viz., the Matrons' Council and the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, had convened a Meeting of Protest in London which, notwithstanding that the private nursing world was exceptionally busy, was crowded beyond the doors, and which passed strong resolutions against the proposed scheme. The Irish nursing world, which lacks the reactionary party by which nurses in this country are always confronted, is specially to be congratulated on its unanimity, energy, and good organisation. The promptness, energy, common sense, and keen professional feeling which it has brought to bear on this question must command respect and admiration.

The lesson of the incident to nurses is that, feeling as they do the danger to their profession of lay control which they have expressed in the various protests, all who have not already done so should join the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which is working for organisation on a just professional basis, and so help to extend its usefulness and influence. The subscription is fixed at 1s. per annum, which is within the means of all nurses, but the Society needs also the support of their names and their individual help. Forms of application for membership will be found on page vii.

A SUMMARY OF THE SCHEME.

The incorporation of the Society is sought for by seven gentlemen in the City of London. It is, therefore, needless to say that, however eminent in financial matters, they must be more or less ignorant concerning medical and nursing questions. Yet the objects for which they seek incorporation involve many points of the greatest technical difficulty. They seek, for example, to promote the higher education and training of nurses, and uniformity in their education. They seem to consider that they can do this by recognising approved nursing schools and granting certificates of proficiency in

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