

Northern Hospital; Miss Mollett, Matron Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton; Miss Barton, Matron Chelsea Infirmary; Miss C. Forrest, Matron Victoria Nurses' Institute, Bournemouth; and Miss M. Breay, Hon. Sec. Matrons' Council.

Mr. Tennant presented the case for Registration with convincing eloquence, and asked the Lord President whether the Government would undertake legislation on this question: he was well supported by various speakers.

The Lord President of the Council made a most satisfactory and encouraging reply, in which he stated (1) That the question of the Registration of Trained Nurses by the State was a matter of national importance; (2) That it could not be long before the subject occupied the serious attention of Parliament; and (3) That as the Government already had a very full programme he could not hold out a hope that they would initiate legislation on this subject during the present Session, but that if the Bill were introduced into the House of Lords it would receive the benevolent attention of the Government.

#### DIRECT REPRESENTATION AND SELF-GOVERNMENT.

In 1904, after this Society had decided to draft a Bill, the Royal British Nurses' Association elected to return to the policy of State Registration of Nurses, for which purpose the nurses had primarily founded the Association in 1887, notwithstanding the fact that the Executive Committee had condemned the principle as injurious and inexpedient in 1896.

The Bills drafted in 1904 and 1905 by the Association incorporated the vital principle of self-government for nurses, the constitution of the Central Board, providing for a large majority of Direct Representatives of the nurses on that Board. Thus there was no radical difference between the Bill drafted by this Society and that of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

In 1906 the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. re-drafted their Bill, and swept away six of the seven Direct Representatives of the nurses, leaving only one Direct Representative on a Board of sixteen, on which provision was made for six, and a possibility of eight nominated medical men, and five Matrons elected by themselves.

Very strong exception to this unjust constitution of the Central Board was taken by the leading Matrons and Nurses of the Association, and at the Special General Meeting of this Society held on January 19th the following Resolution was proposed by Miss Helen Todd,

Matron of the Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth, and was seconded by Miss Mary Burr, M.R.B.N.A., and carried unanimously:—

**"That this Meeting most strongly condemns the retrograde action of the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association in eliminating from its re-drafted Bill almost the whole of the direct representation on the Central Board originally accorded to Trained Nurses.**

**"This Meeting further considers that any Registration Bill which does not make full provision for the direct representation of Trained Nurses on their Governing Body contravenes a cardinal principle of justice, and should be actively opposed."**

Ultimately the Bill drafted by the R.B.N.A. provided for three Direct Representatives instead of one, still leaving the Matrons and nurses in a minority upon the Governing Body of their own profession.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on March 23rd, the question of the reorganisation of the General Nursing Council was discussed, upon a letter from Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., and it was unanimously agreed that any further reduction in the number of the members of the Council could only be effected if the principle of Direct Representation were adopted throughout the Council. It was agreed that a Council of seventeen persons—three to be appointed by the Privy Council, one medical practitioner by the General Medical Council, three medical practitioners elected by the British Medical Association, and ten Matrons and nurses all elected by the registered nurses themselves—would constitute a just and rational Governing Body. The Committee instructed Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Isla Stewart, and Miss Sidney Browne to convey this suggestion to Mr. Tennant, which deputation was kindly received by him on March 31st, and as the result of that consultation it was decided to re-draft the constitution of the General Nursing Council, and submit it to the Annual Meeting of members for their consideration.

#### THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The question of the State Registration of Trained Nurses has been considered by the Branches and Divisions of the British Medical Association in connection with the Report of the Select Committee, and a Memorandum from

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