

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

THE RE-DRAFTED BILL.

A Special General Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held on Friday, January 19th, at 20, Hanover Square, W., when Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, presided, in the unavoidable absence of the President, Miss Louisa Stevenson. About 120 members were present, including Lady Roberts-Austen and Miss E. S. Haldane, Vice-Presidents; Miss Helen Pearse (Great Northern Hospital), Miss Villiers (Fountain Hospital), Miss Ross (Western Fever Hospital), Miss Bann (Brook Hospital), Miss K. Barling (New Hospital for Women), Miss J. A. Smith (Kingston-on-Thames), Miss K. Platt (The Infirmary, Hampstead), Miss E. M. Smith (The Infirmary, Hendon), Miss L. Baker (Howard de Walden Home, W.), Miss S. E. Cartwright (Registered Nurses' Society), Miss Mollett (Southampton), Miss Knight (Nottingham), Miss Todd (Bournemouth), Miss Waind (Guildford), Miss Mary Burr, Miss E. Kingsford, Mrs. Wates, Mrs. Hambleton, Miss Helen Cameron, and many others.

The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, read the notice convening the meeting, and letters and telegrams of regret at non-attendance from the President, several Vice-Presidents, and many Matrons and nurses.

The Chairman said that the matter in hand was a serious one. The Bill of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, to be presented to Parliament, had been re-drafted to meet, in some degree, the suggestions of the Select Committee of the House of Commons. It seemed quite clear that, sooner or later, a Nurses' Registration Act would be passed. The momentous question was in what form? Was the General Council (the Governing Body) to consist of nominated members, or was it to be composed largely of the Direct Representatives of a Free Electorate? As the business before the meeting was lengthy, Miss Stewart said she would ask the Hon. Secretary to at once present the Re-drafted Bill so that they might discuss it Clause by Clause.

As the Bill will shortly be obtainable in pamphlet form, we do not print it *in extenso*. The chief alterations are dealt with below.

The greatest unanimity and earnest purpose were exhibited by the members throughout the proceedings, and afforded food for reflection to those who were present at the meeting held for a similar purpose by the Royal British Nurses' Association, two days previously.

Among those who proposed and seconded resolutions and took part in the discussion were Miss E. S. Haldane, Miss Mollett, Miss Knight, Miss Helen Pearse, Miss Jennings, Q.V.J.L., Miss E. M. Waind, Miss Ross, Miss Villiers, Miss Cutler, Miss Marquardt, Miss Kingsford, Miss Cameron, Miss Cartwright, Miss Barton, Miss J. A. Smith, Miss Plum, Miss Unwin, Miss Busteed, Mrs. Hambleton, Miss Christina Edwards, and others.

Mrs. Fenwick read the Re-drafted Bill Clause by Clause. The first alteration made was in the Constitution of the Council, which was ultimately adopted as follows:—

CONSTITUTION AND APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL.

5. The Council shall consist of twenty-two persons, to be appointed or elected as follows:

- (a) Three persons to be appointed by His Majesty's Privy Council to represent the Training Schools for Nurses in the United Kingdom, one to represent England and Wales, one to represent Scotland, and one to represent Ireland:
- (b) One registered medical practitioner to be appointed by the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom:
- (c) One registered medical practitioner to be appointed by the British Medical Association:
- (d) One registered medical practitioner to be appointed by the Medico-Psychological Association:
- (e) One nurse to be appointed by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland:
- (f) One representative to be appointed by the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses:
- (g) One nurse to be appointed by the Royal British Nurses' Association:
- (h) (1) Two ex or acting Matrons of General Hospitals in England and Wales containing not less than one hundred beds to be elected by the Matrons of General and Special Hospitals containing not less than one hundred beds in England and Wales.
- (2) One ex or acting Matron of a general hospital, who shall be elected by the Matrons of the county hospitals; and of general and special hospitals containing not less than one hundred beds in Scotland.
- (3) One ex or acting Matron of a general hospital, who shall be elected by the Matrons of the county hospitals; and of general and special hospitals containing not less than one hundred beds in Ireland.
- (4) One ex or acting Matron of a Poor Law Infirmary containing not less than two hundred beds to be elected by the trained Matrons of Poor Law Infirmeries containing not less than two hundred beds in the United Kingdom.
- (i) Eight nurses to be elected as the Direct Representatives of the registered nurses of the United Kingdom, four to be elected by nurses on the General Register resident in England and Wales, one of whom must hold the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association, two by the nurses on the General Register resident in Scotland, and two by the nurses on the General Register resident in Ireland.

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