

A letter has also been sent to the Hon. Secretary of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which will be considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee on Friday, 12th February.

A NEW DANGER.

We learn on good authority that Dr. Mackintosh, the Medical Superintendent of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, has taken the initiative in drafting a Nurses' Registration Bill, which departs in several important particulars from that passed by the House of Lords, and which is to be introduced into the House of Commons next Session. This action has been taken in conjunction with a few persons in Scotland, and without consulting nurses organised to obtain legislation in either England or Ireland.

This new Measure strikes at the root of several of the most important principles and privileges embodied in the Nurses' Registration Bill, and which English and Irish Nurses have been working for for several years. We may say, without hesitation, that Dr. Mackintosh's Bill will be keenly criticised in the Metropolis as soon as it sees the light of day. As Scottish nurses are totally unorganised it is not surprising to learn that medical supremacy is the keynote of the Scottish Registration Bill.

THE ULSTER BRANCH OF THE I.N.A.

The Ulster Branch of the Irish Nurses' Association met at the Nurses' Club, Belfast, on February 4th to debate details of nurses' registration. Unfortunately, owing to a wet night, the attendance was small. There were present the Matrons of the Royal Victoria Hospital, the Infirmary, Belfast, the Infirmary, Lisburn, the British Charitable Institution, the Throne Hospital, the District Nursing Association, of two Nursing Homes, and several Queen's Nurses.

Miss Mahaffy, Superintendent of the Richmond Nursing Home, spoke strongly in favour of registration, pointing out that at present there was no recognised standard of training or nursing education, and no way of eliminating bogus or criminal women from the ranks, and although the Bill passed by the House of Lords was not all that could be desired, she hoped it would be balloted for next session.

Miss Mildred, Matron of the Throne Hospital, read a paper against registration, and said the Bill as it stood was worse than useless. Miss Russell, Matron of the British Charitable Institution, considered the Bill gave

away the principle that all State registrationists had fought for for twenty years, namely, the three consecutive years' training in one hospital.

Lady Hermione Blackwood said there were clauses in the Bill which they did not like, but the advice received was to support the Bill in which the principle of State Registration was embodied, and in which many privileges were granted, and to propose amendments when the Bill was before Parliament.

All present agreed they were in favour of the principle of State Registration, but no resolution was passed in support of the Bill.

The Ulster Branch object (1) to the power taken in the Bill to register any nurse who has not completed a three years' consecutive training in one hospital. (2) To Clause 23, which provides that the Registration Council *may* recommend the formation of a register of "Associate" or less highly trained nurses than those qualified for the title "registered"; and (3) require that registration shall be "compulsory," not "voluntary."

REMARKS.

There is nothing in the Nurses' Registration Bill to prevent the whole of a nurse's training being taken in one hospital, but the word "hospitals" introduced into the Bill by the Government makes possible the co-operative training which under a Central Board will be not only possible but desirable in the case of hospitals which cannot provide training in certain branches of work. Now that medicine is so highly specialised, a nurse who has only received training in medical and surgical nursing, even for the accepted period of three consecutive years, is not thoroughly equipped, especially for private nursing, and it must be an advantage if a nurse can get obstetric training, and experience in the nursing of infectious cases; and in other special branches of nursing, outside her own training school, if it does not provide this experience.

In regard to Clause 23, also introduced into the Bill by the Government, it is not acceptable to any Associations of medical practitioners or of trained nurses with which we are acquainted, but the suggestion in the clause is not *compulsory*, and discretion is left entirely with the Registration Council to recommend the registration of "Associate" nurses or not.

Compulsory registration of Trained Nurses has never been asked for in any Bill before Parliament, so that to suggest this is quite a new departure. Moreover, there is no chance,

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