

sisters, 163 charge nurses, 736 nurses at present on duty in general hospitals, 440 private nurses, 162 Queen's nurses, 377 mental nurses in hospitals, 416 fever nurses in hospitals, and 35 private nurses trained in special and cottage hospitals, making a total of 2,718.

Miss Gill, Superintendent of Nurses, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; Dr. Oswald, Mr. J. D. Hedderwick, Chairman of Glasgow Royal Infirmary; Mr. Stephen J. Henry, Chairman of Glasgow Parish Council; Miss Davidson, Superintendent of Nurses, Bangour Lunatic Asylum; Dr. Livingston, Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary; Dr. Playfair, Edinburgh; and Councillor W. F. Anderson, Glasgow, generally spoke in support of separate registration for Scotland.

Miss Ramsay, Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, proposed:—"That it is the wish of Scottish nurses that Parliament be solicited to pass an Act establishing a separate Council for the Registration of Nurses in Scotland."

Miss Paulden, Glasgow Co-operation of Trained Nurses, seconded.

Dr. Morton, Shettleston, moved as an amendment that there should not be a separate Nurses' Registration Bill for Scotland, and Miss Wright, Glasgow Co-operation of Trained Nurses, seconded.

The resolution was carried by a large majority, only seven voting for the amendment.

On the motion of Colonel J. A. Roxburgh, seconded by Dr. Affleck, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"That it is the wish of the authorities responsible for the training and employment of Scottish nurses that Parliament be solicited to pass an Act establishing a separate Council for the register of nurses in Scotland."

A general committee was appointed, on the motion of Professor Glaister, and empowered to use all available means to secure the passing of the Act referred to in the resolution.

Mr. Cleland, M.P., who was present, said that he should endeavour to enlist the interest of the Scottish members of Parliament in a Bill on the lines of the draft measure prepared by the Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence has passed between Dr. Mackintosh, Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and Mr. R. C. Munro Ferguson, M.P.:

Western Infirmary, Glasgow,
February 12th, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—I have been asked by a committee of medical men and nurses to put into your hands the enclosed statement relating to the Registration of Nurses in Scotland. In the Bill which passed through the House of Lords during last session it was proposed to include Scotland in the English scheme. This would, however, inflict a decided hardship on Scottish nurses, and would, we think, destroy to a large extent the enthusiasm which at present actuates those engaged in the training of nurses. We earnestly trust that you will give us your support in this work. We should also deem it a great favour if you would be present at the

meeting which we propose to hold in Glasgow on 27th inst. Of this meeting, however, further intimation will be sent you.

I am, dear sir,

Your obedient servant,

DONALD J. MACKINTOSH.

46, Cadogan Square, Feb. 18th, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—For the last five years I have introduced the Nurses' Registration Bill into the House of Commons, and have represented the interests of the registration movement in that House. I am, therefore, surprised that this should be the first intimation I have received of a desire for a separate Bill to affect the interests of nurses in Scotland. Though I am much in favour of the principle of devolution, I cannot think that in this instance it would be to the interest of the Scottish nurses to separate their cause from the rest of the profession in England and Ireland. However, I will certainly be glad to accept any amendment to the Registration Bill when it comes before the Commons to the effect that Scotland be deleted. It will then be open to your Committee to bring forward a Bill of their own, and in this way I imagine that the two Societies will work for registration on their own lines without injury to the interests of either.

And believe me,

Yours truly,

(Signed) R. MUNRO FERGUSON.

The Bill to which we have alluded deprives Scottish nurses of the privilege accorded to all organised professions of a central test of efficiency, and thereby eliminates the fundamental principle for the organisation of the nursing profession for which trained nurses have been working for so many years.

It also provides that nurses registered in Scotland, without the qualifications required in the English Bill, shall be permitted to rank as registered nurses in England and Ireland, that is to say, without giving evidence of having attained a minimum standard of efficiency to a central unbiassed authority.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be held in London on Friday, March 12th, at 4 p.m., at which the following Resolution will be proposed:—

RESOLUTION.

"That the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses reaffirms its determination to support the principles defined in the Nurses' Registration Bill, passed last session by the House of Lords, and introduced into the House of Commons this session by Mr. Munro Ferguson, and pledges itself to resist by every means in its power any attempt to undermine those principles, which it considers of vital importance to the nursing profession and to the efficient care of the sick."

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