

Dr. Maxtone Thom, Glasgow; Dr. Ker, Edinburgh; Dr. Core, Glasgow; Dr. Richard, Govan; Dr. Newman, Glasgow; Dr. Johnston, Glasgow; Dr. Brownlee, Glasgow; Dr. Neil Carmichael, Miss Gill, Edinburgh; Miss Melrose, Glasgow; Miss Gregory Smith, Glasgow; Miss Cowper, Miss MacFarlane, Glasgow; Miss Merchant, Glasgow; Miss Shepherd, Glasgow; Miss Moseley, Glasgow; Miss Wright, Glasgow; Miss King, Miss Graham, and Miss Renwick, representing private nursing institutions, with representatives from the provincial hospitals and from the boards of management of Scottish hospitals.

It was afterwards remitted to a Committee of four to interview the Secretary for Scotland and to use every available means to get the views expressed at the meeting put before him.

The Chairman afterwards made a few remarks. He did not think they should say very much about this Bill being in the interests of nurses. As a matter of fact, in all such Acts, as in the Medical Act, 1858, and amending Acts, and in the Dentists Act, 1878, the whole stress was laid on the good which would accrue to the public by an Act of Parliament. The preamble to the Medical Act, 1858, was something to this effect:—"As it is advisable that persons requiring medical and surgical advice should be able to distinguish between unqualified and qualified practitioners, it be hereby enacted." In such a Bill, Parliament wanted to know how far it would be a benefit to the general public. Another point that he had been interested in, principally from hearing it repeated over and over again, was that the proposals were not to make a separate Bill and a separate register for Scotland altogether apart from England. The proposals were somewhat on the lines that characterised the registration in the medical profession. The Medical Act of 1858 established three branch councils, one in Edinburgh, one in Dublin, and one in London. These three Councils met together in terms of the Statute at least once in each year. As a matter of fact they always met twice a year, and that meeting was spoken of as the General Medical Council of Education and Registration for Great Britain. Although medical men were registered in Edinburgh, Dublin, and London, their names were all ultimately put alphabetically together in one large volume. It was important, he continued, that there should be a Branch Council, and that that Branch Council should have some power of annually purging the register, as it was most important that they should have nurses of good character. If he wanted his leg cut off he might not be very particular about the medical man's character if he were skilful in his profession, but with a nurse, who might be in one's house for many weeks, it was essential that her character should be beyond reproach. He thought that nurses who registered in Scotland should be considered as also registered all over the Kingdom and in the Colonies.

After several suggestions had been made for amendments on the draft Bill intended to apply exclusively to Scotland, it was left to the Committee to act in accordance with the views expressed at the meeting, the Committee to consider any written

suggestions for amendments they may receive during this week from those interested.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, accorded on the motion of Mr. Gibson, Chairman of the Edinburgh Parish Council.

It will be seen from this report that Dr. Mackintosh's Committee has entirely altered its conclusions from those issued a short time ago in a pamphlet entitled "Registration of Nurses in Scotland" in which was included a "Draft Bill to regulate the Registration of Nurses in Scotland," which provides:—

"(1) This Act may for all purposes be cited as the Nurses (Scotland) Act, 1909." It was proposed in this Scottish Bill to eliminate several important principles for which English and Irish nurses have been working for years—primarily the central examination as the portal to the Nurses' Register, and in addition it was proposed that all nurses registered in Scotland, specialists and otherwise, without submitting to this test of efficiency, shall be recognised as registered nurses in England and Ireland, and compete on equal terms with those who have been trained under a curriculum defined by the General Registration Council, without let or hindrance.

The Chairman of the meeting, Sir Hector Cameron, was apparently ignorant of the issue of a draft Registration Bill for Scotland, as he disclaimed any suggestion that a separate Bill was intended. But the Bill published in the pamphlet above referred to is designated "Draft Registration Bill intended to apply exclusively to Scotland." Moreover, to say that this proposal has not been made is disproved by the fact that Dr. Mackintosh, in a published letter, wrote to Mr. Munro Ferguson in the name of "a committee of medical men and nurses," that "it would be a hardship to include Scottish nurses in the English scheme," and although Mr. Munro Ferguson disapproved of the elimination of Scotland from the Bill promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, he consented to accept an amendment, when the Bill came before the House of Commons, "to the effect that Scotland be deleted."

It is satisfactory, however, to judge from the above report, that this unwise proposal has been withdrawn, and that a large number of Medical Superintendents and Matrons in Scotland have at last come out and openly proclaimed themselves in favour of the principle of State Registration of Trained Nurses by the establishment of "The Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland."

At the same time, it must be remembered

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