

that, without any consultation with the organised nurses of England and Ireland, the new Scottish Association now proposes a system of registration which will affect the nurses of the three countries.

As will be seen by the positions held by its office bearers, the Scottish Association is for all practical purposes a Medical Superintendents' body. So far, the Committee has entirely ignored the nurses' organisations, which in England and Ireland have for many years been working to promote legal registration, but we wish the Committee to understand that we organised nurses know what we want, and we certainly cannot recognise the right of the new Scottish organisation to dictate to the nursing world what form legislation shall take. Any attempt to deprive the nurses of England and Ireland of the professional privileges embodied in Lord Amptill's Bill, and which are approved by the British Medical Association, the great body of Medical Fever Specialists, and, we believe, by a great number of the Medical Superintendents under the Local Government Board, and which have, further, the unanimous support of organised Nurses' Societies, will be strenuously resisted.

"DOWN WITH NURSES' REGISTRATION ALTOGETHER."

Dr. Wallace Anderson has made public the fact that at the first private medical meetings convened by Dr. Mackintosh in Glasgow, the cry was "Down with Nurses' Registration altogether," and, although it is satisfactory to note that it was realised this attitude was futile, we nurses must recognise that men inspired by this spirit are not likely to propose and support a thoroughly liberal Bill for trained nurses, and that they should now attempt to legislate for English and Irish nurses without their consent, warns us that we have to be very alert in guarding our professional interests and liberties.

It was one thing when Scottish nurses signed a plebiscite to deprive themselves only of professional benefits. If they wished to stultify their professional organisation, we could but regret it, knowing that they would speedily realise their mistake. But it becomes a very different question when these unorganised workers, through the influence of those who control them, attempt to force upon English and Irish nurses a useless system of registration, which is calculated to perpetuate the present disorganised condition of nursing education. To this we shall not submit.

LOCAL COUNCILS.

We may say at once that we are, and always

have been, in favour of the establishment of Branch Registration Councils in Scotland and Ireland, and this question has been discussed between Registrationists on more than one occasion. We have also gathered that our Irish colleagues are in favour of this system, because, during the debate on the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Lords, on October 20th last, Lord Ashbourne, who represented the interests of Irish nurses, proposed the following amendment to the Bill:—

"In page 5, line 11, after the word 'Act,' to insert 'The Council may appoint three or more members to act as a committee for Ireland and for Scotland respectively, and may authorise each such committee, subject to revision or approval by the Council, to transact any business of the Council concerning Ireland or Scotland, respectively, which the Council may think it expedient to delegate to such committee.'"

The Lord President of the Council, Viscount Wolverhampton, opposed the amendment on the ground that the proposal was both unnecessary and inexpedient, and said he thought it undesirable to set up Statutory Committees who would require separate officials. The clerical work could be perfectly well done in the central office in London, and there was nothing to prevent the Council appointing Sub-Committees to report on specific points, which would be preferable to a statutory delegation of functions. Uniformity of regulations and procedure was desirable for all parts of the United Kingdom.

Lord Ashbourne, after the Lord President's statement, did not press his amendment further, and it was withdrawn.

But whether or no, the establishment of Branch Councils would be an efficacious method, the suggestion that a separate Register for each country should be embodied in one common Register cannot be approved. This would mean the creation of fictitious divisions which are really non-existent, as there is a frequent interchange of nurses trained in the different countries. It is certain that in the publication of the Nurses' Register the names of all nurses on the general Register would have to be entered alphabetically—the system adopted in the publication of the Medical Register.

A spirited correspondence in the *Glasgow Herald* and *Scotsman* has been carried on re Nurses' Registration. If only those who criticise Mr. Ferguson's Bill would read it before doing so, they would not be betrayed into so many inaccurate, not to say grotesque, statements. Anyway, the question is all a-growing and a-blowing, which proves its vitality.

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