

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Friday, the 8th inst., at 431, Oxford Street, London, Miss Isla Stewart, the President, in the chair.

The minutes having been read and confirmed, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Hon. Secretary, presented the following report:—

REPORT OF THE HON. SECRETARY.

Since the last meeting of the Executive Committee we have held our Annual Meeting, when an Address was given by the President on "Solidarity," and resolutions were passed conveying the thanks of the Society (1) to the Prime Minister for receiving a deputation in support of the Nurses' Registration Bill, (2) to the ladies and gentlemen who supported the Society by taking part in the Deputation, (3) conveying hearty congratulations to those States of the American Union the Legislatures of which have passed Bills for the Registration of Nurses during the past Session, (4) approving of a Conference between representatives of Societies promoting and supporting the three Bills for the Registration of Nurses, and (5) re-affirming the determination of the Society to oppose any Bill for the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, providing for reciprocity of registration unless the standards of training and examination are equivalent to those enforced for England and Ireland, and reaffirming as essential the principle of a single portal to the Nurses' Register.

DEPUTATION TO PRIME MINISTER.

The Deputation, introduced by Lord Amthill, was received by the Prime Minister on Thursday, May 13th. It was composed of influential members of Parliament, medical practitioners, nurse representatives, and representatives of important Women's Organisations. The Prime Minister promised to give most careful and respectful consideration to the arguments laid before him, which he admitted were cogent. He remarked that he had not heard the other side, but he thought that *prima facie* they were very cogent arguments indeed, and, having regard to the composition of the Deputation, and the authority which it possessed, he assured it that those arguments would be most carefully and sympathetically considered by him and his colleagues.

CONFERENCE BETWEEN PROMOTERS OF BILLS.

In accordance with the advice of our Parliamentary friends, a Conference was convened by a conjoint letter signed by Lord Amthill and Mr. R. C. Munro-Ferguson, M.P., on behalf of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, Mr. Finlay, M.P., on behalf of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and Lord Inverclyde and Mr. Cleland, M.P., on behalf of the Association for Promoting the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, the object of the Conference being to confer upon Clauses in the three Bills severally promoted by the

above Societies concerning which there is a difference of opinion. The Conference met on June 28th in a Committee Room of the House of Commons, first under the presidency of Lord Amthill, and subsequently of Mr. Munro Ferguson, ten representatives of each Society and of the Irish Nurses' Association being invited to attend. The following Resolutions were adopted:—

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That this Conference, representing the supporters of the three Bills for the Registration of Nurses, which are at present before Parliament, is unanimously of opinion that such legislation is urgently needed in the interests alike of trained nurses of the medical profession and of the public.

2. That this Conference is of opinion that the State Registration of Nurses can only be based successfully upon the principle of a single portal system of admission to the Register for the whole of the United Kingdom, provided that the several parts of the United Kingdom be adequately represented, and that the principle of administrative decentralisation be not necessarily excluded.

3. That this Conference is of opinion that under a single portal system nurses should be admitted to the Register only after—

(a) A three years' course of training, with a definite curriculum prescribed by a Central Nursing Council, conducted in recognised Hospital Nursing Schools.

(b) Having passed a uniform examination conducted by examiners appointed by, and under the supervision of, the Central Nursing Council, at suitable centres throughout the United Kingdom.

4. That a Committee be now appointed to consist of representatives of each section represented at this meeting, to draw up one Bill embodying the above principles, which can be presented to Parliament with the unanimous support of the promoters of the present Bills, and to consider which a further meeting of this conference will be held.

It was also agreed that Mr. Cleland, M.P., should act as Convenor of the above Committee, and that it should consist of five representatives of each of the four societies taking part in the Conference.

The Committee met under the presidency of Mr. J. W. Cleland, M.P., in a Committee Room of the House of Commons, on Monday, July 26th, when the representatives of the State Registration Society, the Royal British Nurses' Association (one of whom was Sir William Macewen, President of the Scottish Nurses' Association), and the Irish Nurses' Association, agreed upon every clause considered. The representatives of the Association for Promoting the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, without the test of a central, independent examination, withdrew during the Conference.

The only question now for discussion between the members of the above societies is the constitution of the Registration Council—an important question deferred for lack of time.

The substantial agreement in support of one Bill in England and Ireland, and by an influential section in Scotland, augurs well for the progress of our movement.

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