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Editorial.

THE WORK OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON REGISTRATION.

The Central Committee for State Registration of Trained Nurses, under the skilful chairmanship of Lord Ampthill, has concluded its deliberations on the Nurses' Registration Bill, and we are sure that the readers of this journal, which for so many years has worked for their professional recognition, and which is the official organ of the nurses who are working for registration, will await with eagerness the result of those deliberations. It will be remembered that the Conference was convened with the object of closing the ranks of the registrationists, and of securing, for one Bill, the support of all who are seeking to promote the passing of an Act for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. To further this end Lord Ampthill invited the following Societies each to appoint five delegates to attend a Conference: The British Medical Association, The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, The Royal British Nurses' Association, The Fever Nurses' Association, The Scottish Nurses' Association, The Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, The Irish Nurses' Association, and The Asylum Workers' Association. With the exception of the last-mentioned Association, which preferred to maintain its independence, all the Societies accepted the invitation, and met first on January 25th, the meeting being held by the kind permission of the British Medical Association in its Council Room, at 429, Strand, London, W.C. Thirty-nine of the forty delegates were present.

For the purpose of securing united action in regard to State Registration of Nurses, until a satisfactory law has been passed by Parliament, a Central Committee was formally constituted of five delegates of the eight societies present. Lord Ampthill was appointed Chairman, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Hon. Secretary of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and Dr. E. W. Goodall, Hon. Secretary of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association, joint Hon.

Secretaries, and Mr. Langton, F.R.C.S., Royal British Nurses' Association, Hon. Treasurer.

The Bill which passed the House of Lords in November, 1908, was taken as the basis of discussion, and was carefully considered clause by clause, and considerably amended, Clause 4, *re* the "Constitution and Appointment of Council," being referred to a Sub-Committee composed of one delegate from each of the eight societies represented, for consideration and report.

The Sub-Committee met on February 3rd, and, after long and careful consideration, agreed upon the draft of Clause 4 for presentation to the Central Committee.

The Central Committee met again on Feb. 12th, when, with few exceptions, all the delegates attended. The principal business on this occasion was to receive the Report of the Sub-Committee, which was presented by its Chairman, Mr. T. Jenner Verrall, delegate of the British Medical Association.

There were certain consequential and minor alterations in the Bill, but the most important as finally amended, were as follows:—

CONSTITUTION AND APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL.

Clause 4.

1.—The Council shall consist of twenty-one persons to be appointed or elected as follows:—

- (a) Three persons to be appointed by the Privy Council, of whom one at least shall be a woman:
- (b) Three registered medical practitioners, one of whom shall be appointed by the Local Government Board of England; one by the Local Government Board of Scotland; and one by the Local Government Board of Ireland.
- (c) Three registered medical practitioners to be appointed by the British Medical Association, one to be resident in England, one to be resident in Scotland, and one to be resident in Ireland.
- (d) One registered medical practitioner to be appointed by the Medico-Psychological Association.
- (e) One registered medical practitioner to be

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