

They were distinctly of opinion that without a Scottish Registration Committee, composed in the manner indicated in the Scottish Bill, Registration in Scotland would be futile, if not positively mischievous; and they regard two guineas as the maximum fee permissible for Registration.

I desire to point out that the Association of which I am President has no quarrel with any other Nurses' Association, and in our past endeavours have tried solely to secure the best conditions for nurses and for Registration.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

INVERCLYDE.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,
Hon. Secretary,
The Society for the State Registration
of Trained Nurses,
20, Wimpole Street, London, W.

We regret that we are unable to follow Lord Inverclyde's reasoning as to our criticism. We quote below Section 11, clause 1, of the statement to which he refers:—

No. 1.—11. *The differences between the Scottish and the English Registration Bill.*

LORD AMPHILL'S
BILL.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>SCOTTISH BILL.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Registration Council represents— <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Nurses. 2. The Training Schools. 3. The Medical Profession. 4. The Universities. 5. The Government Departments. | <p>1. Registration Council represents the nurses. It is difficult to discover the principle on which the other representation is based. On the Registration Council Scotland would be represented by one doctor and by one nurse after the first five years.</p> |
|---|--|

Here it is distinctly stated that the Registration Council represents the nurses, after which statement there is a full stop. Why is it difficult to discover what is printed in Lord Amphyll's Bill? It is plainly published that the Matrons and Nurses in England, Scotland, and Ireland shall be represented by 7 persons, the medical profession in England, Scotland, and Ireland by 6 persons, and the public by 3 persons appointed by the Privy Council. In reference to the last paragraph of this most ambiguous clause, medical representation in Scotland, is provided for in the constitution of the Registration Council, and nowhere is it stated that "after the first five years" Scotland would be represented by one doctor and by one nurse. The Bill clearly states that the persons appointed on the first Council "shall hold office until the Lord President certifies that the task of forming a register of persons

entitled to be registered . . . is sufficiently advanced to admit of an election of direct representatives of registered nurses." No term of office of any sort is specified in this clause.

No. 2.—We still challenge Lord Inverclyde's Committee to find any such restrictive recommendation in the Report of the Select Committee on Registration "that no applicant for registration should be subjected to examination other than that of the training school."

The Select Committee recommended that nurses should be admitted to the Register after a period of training prescribed by the Central Body, after examination and certification by the training school. It did not prohibit an applicant for registration being subjected to examination other than that held by the training school, so unjustifiably stated in the Scottish Statement. It is this devious and inaccurate ambiguity which inspires the whole Pamphlet to which we take the strongest exception. We pointed out in our criticism, and we repeat the statement—that its teaching is calculated—let us hope unintentionally—to mislead rather than correctly inform Scottish Nurses on the Registration question.

Central Registration Committee.

Lord Inverclyde's Association will be represented at the Conference on the 25th by the following delegates:—Lord Inverclyde, President; Dr. Ker, Medical Superintendent, City Fever Hospital, Edinburgh; Dr. Mackintosh, Medical Superintendent, Western Infirmary, Glasgow; Miss Gill, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; and Miss Cowper, General Superintendent, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, Scottish Branch.

Lord Amphyll, the Convener of the Conference, has issued an Agenda, with a list of the Societies who have nominated delegates to take part in it.

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 Irish Nurses' Association.

The Scottish Nurses' Association, and

The Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland.

Let us hope that a thoroughly reasonable spirit will prevail, and that a Bill will ultimately be drafted to which all registrationists in the United Kingdom can subscribe.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)