

which she enumerated. She said that the Bill was very carefully constructed to meet the just claims of all engaged in training nurses, but primarily the just claims of those who were to be trained, to force the hands of bogus trainers, and to protect the public from shams of whose mistakes and shortcomings they were themselves unable to judge. She showed that the Nurses' Register would comprise a General Register, and also Supplementary Registers of Male and Mental Nurses, that provision was made that the General Council for the Registration of Nurses in the United Kingdom, when fully constituted, should include adequate representation of the nurses through their directly elected representatives, a most important principle, as nothing could ever take the place of individual, personal responsibility, and the pride of the Nursing Profession in its own thoroughness. It was this which would make or mar the profession. "One for all and all for each other" was the motto of registrationists.

It was necessary to provide for the temporary representation of nurses on the Governing Body because it was evident that until a certain number of nurses had been registered there was not an electorate to elect their direct representatives, therefore those societies which had taken a front place in the struggle for registration and certain Government Departments, and societies concerned with nurses, would be called upon to appoint nurses to act temporarily in the place of the direct representatives. They would retire as soon as the Lord President of the Council certified that the formation of the Register was sufficiently advanced to admit of the election of such representatives.

Miss Mollett made it plain that during the three years' term of grace from the commencement of the Act no applicants for admission to the Register would be required to pass an examination, and the fee would be only £2 2s. for registration, after which the maximum fee for both examination and registration would be £5 5s.—a very reasonable one indeed for the benefits received, a much larger sum being paid by apprentices and pupils in many other trades and professions. In conclusion Miss Mollett said she would be pleased to forward a copy of the Registration Bill to any applicant on receipt of 3d. to cover the cost of Bill and postage.

An interesting discussion followed, in which Miss Musson, Miss Hannath, Miss Mary Gardner, Miss Pell Smith, Mrs. Walter Spencer, and others took part.

Speaking on a Central Nursing Examination, Mrs. Walter Spencer pointed out that though the standard of the examination would no doubt be fixed to suit the average nurse, it would be a minimum, not a maximum standard. Her experience was that some the best practical nurses came from provincial hospitals, where they had greater opportunities than in hospitals with medical schools attached, where many practical details were performed by students.

Miss Musson, referring to the difficulty of passing an examination, dreaded by some nurses, said that nurses who made themselves quite ill in anticipation of their hospital examination often voluntarily

entered quite cheerfully later on for the examination of the Central Midwives' Board, and passed it with credit. She thought the reason was that they were definitely prepared in certain subjects, and that if a syllabus were defined, and definite preparation given, nurses would not look forward with such dread to their examinations, as when they did not know quite what to expect, or whether the questions asked would be more on medical than nursing subjects.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick thought it might be taken for granted that any Central Nursing Council appointed would move slowly, and would not attempt to impose impossible conditions, and that examinations would be largely practical. The object of such a Council would be to help to provide the very best nurses for the sick, in every class of hospital, and for every class of patient.

The meeting concluded with a cordial vote of thanks to Miss Musson, and to the Governors of the Birmingham General Hospital, proposed by Miss Heather-Bigg, for their courtesy and kindness in lending their beautiful Board-room for the meetings.

Amongst those present, besides the ladies already mentioned, were Miss Macintyre, Royal Infirmary, Wigan; Miss A. Smith, Kingston Union Infirmary; Miss Gaved-Wills, Walsall and District Hospital; Miss Holloway, Victoria Nursing Institute, Walsall; Miss Richmond, Women's Hospital, Sparkbrook; Miss Mossop, Homeopathic Hospital, Birmingham; Miss Marriott, Eye Hospital, Birmingham; Miss Fison Clarke, Children's Hospital, Birmingham; Miss Chessington, City Hospital, Lodge Road, Birmingham; Miss Morrison, City Hospital, Little Bromwich; Miss de Chastelain, Jaffray Hospital, Erdington; Miss Pell Smith, Home Hospital, Leicester; Miss Bryan, General Hospital, Northampton; Miss McFarlane, the Infirmary and Eye Hospital, Kidderminster; Miss Parsons, Guest Hospital, Dudley; Miss Rapson, Warneford, Leamington, and South Warwick General Hospital, Leamington; Miss G. B. Macvitie, London; Miss Clara Lee, Letchworth; Miss L. Parmiter, Ruddington; Miss Warburton, Private Hospital, Newhall Street, Birmingham; Miss Carless, Private Hospital, Cornwall Street, Birmingham; Miss Connell, Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton; Miss Mary Gardner, Blackwell Sanatorium; Miss Flora Gardner, Heathcote Hospital, Warwick, and others.

The subject of Registration had proved so engrossing that a very short time remained before the guests had to catch trains, but a hasty visit was paid to the fine kitchen, larder, and store-rooms, which are on the top floor of the hospital, which were the envy of many Matrons, and a glimpse into the wards had to suffice. Every one was greatly impressed with the courtesy and kindness of the nursing staff, and the exquisite neatness of their appearance attested to the high standard of good order which is evident throughout the arrangements of the General Hospital, Birmingham.

The meeting was in every way most successful, and the hope was expressed on many sides that in future some of the meetings of the Matrons' Council would be convened in provincial centres.

M. B.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)