

the report of an interview with Miss Sparshott, the Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, in which she criticised as "untrue" and "little short of wicked" statements which had never been made, erroneous deductions which were entirely disproved by the President in a communication to the *Courier*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters of regret at inability to attend were received from Miss E. S. Haldane, LL.D., Miss M. A. Buckingham, Miss B. Cutler, Miss F. E. Marquardt, Miss E. Barton, and many other busy members of the Committee. Miss Buckingham wrote, "I consider that anything else than State registration for *Trained Nurses* will be useless, and sincerely hope that Lord Knutsford's endeavour to substitute the registration of training schools for that of trained nurses will come to nothing." Other members of the Committee wrote in the same sense. Letters were also received and considered from Miss A. C. Gibson, Miss E. L. C. Eden, Miss Norah Green, Miss E. C. Harvey, Mrs. Flattner, and Miss F. A. Underwood.

THE REGISTRATION OF TRAINING SCHOOLS.

The next business was to consider what action should be taken in reference to Lord Knutsford's endeavour to substitute the Registration of Training Schools, under the Board of Education, for the Registration of Trained Nurses.

The proposal was considered, and as it was agreed that like the Nurses' Directory Bill, it was merely another attempt to deprive trained nurses of legal status and powers of self-government, it was decided means should be taken to oppose it.

The provision to register training-schools is secured under sufficient safeguards in the Nurses' Registration Bill, and it is interesting to contrast the systems suggested by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses which drafted the Bill, and those who oppose registration of Trained Nurses, as voiced by Lord Knutsford.

The two proposals are briefly as follows:—

NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

At the expiration of the three years' term of grace—during which time nurses in practice can be registered—any person may be registered, provided that such a person has had not less than three years' training, *under a definite curriculum prescribed by the Council*, and has passed such examination as the Council may prescribe.

The Bill therefore provides safeguards—

1. For efficiency of training, as defined by a professional authority.
2. For uniformity of examination (the one portal system, which has worked so satisfactorily in New Zealand, the United States of America, and in the case of the Midwives Act).
3. For investigating the capacity of the individual nurse upon whose knowledge and skill the comfort and recovery of individual patients may depend.

LORD KNUTSFORD'S PROPOSITION.

1. That the Board of Education, an unprofessional authority, shall recognise such hospitals as it chooses as training schools for nurses, "Because we see that the nurses they are turning out are good."

2. That every one of these hospitals with their varied standards shall have the right to give a certificate of a "recognised training school." "Recognised," that is to say, by an unprofessional authority, which knows nothing of either the theory or practice of Nursing.

3. This system would therefore guarantee the nurse as efficient, as well as the school, upon a certificate gained without having submitted her knowledge or skill (or the lack of them) to the test imposed by a professional authority.

This subterfuge would indeed "lull the public into a sense of false security." The effect of the proposition would be to continue the present most unsatisfactory system, that each training-school is a law to itself, and to prevent what the anti-registrationists describe as "State interference." Trained nurses would not be accorded legal status, and would remain, as at present, the domestic servants of the committees which employ them.

What, in fact, Lord Knutsford and those who are associated with him are contending for is the uncontrolled and absolute domination of the training school, firstly over the education and economic value of its trainees, and secondly over trained nurses as independent wage earners in departments of work which the school takes no responsibility in providing. Such an egregious claim has never been seriously put forward in connection with the graduates of any other profession. The Society therefore decided to oppose, and fight determinedly, any such insidiously dangerous attempt to deprive members of the Nursing Profession of all personal responsibility, and consequent independence of action in the body politic.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The following applications for membership were considered, and the applicants elected:—

- 3576 Miss G. F. Evans, cert. Roy. United Hosp., Bath.
- 3577 Miss E. K. Wallis, cert. St. Bart's Hosp., E.C.
- 3578 Miss F. E. Ball, cert. Gen. Hosp., Nottingham.
- 3579 Miss E. M. Whitaker, cert. St. Bart's Hosp., E.C. (Matron Red Cross Hosp., Worsley Hall, Worsley).
- 3580 Miss E. Lloyd, cert. Roy. Free Hosp., W.C.
- 3581 Miss P. Gill, cert. St. Bart's Hosp., E.C.
- 3582 Miss E. M. Wood, cert. St. Thomas' Hosp., S.E.
- 3583 Miss J. Hoskins, cert. Taunton and Somerset Hosp., Taunton.
- 3584 Miss C. Stewart, cert. Taunton & Somerset Hosp., Taunton.
- 3585 Miss K. Harpham, cert. Sheffield Roy. Hosp.
- 3586 Miss A. H. Franklin, cert. Poplar & Stepney Sick Asylum.

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