

Miss E. A. Stevenson, Hon. Secretary of the Scottish Society of Trained Nurses, wrote:— "Much to my regret it is impossible for me to be present at the meeting on the 12th. I trust that the Resolutions on the Agenda will be unanimously adopted. Since I addressed a letter to you as Hon. Secretary of the Central Registration Committee, I have received letters from members of this Society warmly commending the Council for taking action in communicating with the Registration Committee and condemning strongly the scheme proposed by the Hon. Arthur Stanley for incorporating a Voluntary College of Nursing to be governed by a nominated Board of Management, and the proposal to apply to the Board of Trade for incorporation without the word 'Limited.' Amazement has been expressed at the method adopted by Mr. Stanley and his supporters in moving for the promotion of such a scheme under the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England. Mr. Stanley has been struck by lack of organization amongst authorities responsible for the training of nurses and 'nurses themselves'—he has either been misinformed in regard to organization among nurses, or, for some reason left unexplained he has abstained from consulting professional opinion. Parliamentary, public, and professional opinion appears to have been considered immaterial, for as expressed by Miss S. A. Swift, 'A few of us have met informally at the Red Cross Office and put together' the scheme which trained nurses have been asked to support without question. It is inconceivable that any unbiassed or fair-minded individual or organization, business or professional, can countenance a scheme launched under such unbusiness-like circumstances. At the last meeting of members of this Society, a resolution was passed *nem. con.* supporting the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses now before Parliament. Finally, I have to add, that the Council of this Society will oppose the scheme (as outlined by Mr. Stanley in his Circular Letter) as antagonistic to the passing of an Act for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, opposed to the interests of trained nurses and a danger to the sick."

FROM IRELAND.

From Dublin the Irish Nurses' Association had forwarded the copy of an Emergency Resolution passed on February 5th:—"That this Meeting of the Members of the Irish Nurses' Association desire to reassert their strongly held opinion that compulsory examination, and registration by the State, is the only form of organisation suitable to their needs, and believe that any voluntary scheme such as suggested by the Hon. Arthur Stanley would be prejudicial to their interests."

Resolutions were read from the Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League, and the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses League—protesting against the suggested scheme, and in support of legal registration.

Mrs. Fenwick said she had received a large numbers of letters from nurses all over the country, and from Scotland and Ireland, objecting to any voluntary scheme of organization—specially taking objection to a nominated council, and lay control, and warmly supporting the Nurses' Registration Bill. She had not received one letter in favour of the Voluntary Nursing College.

She felt sure the meeting would hope that wise counsels would prevail at the forthcoming interview between the registration representatives and the promoters of the voluntary scheme, and that if an agreed Bill received support it would be an eminently satisfactory result for all concerned, but as their President she wished for a clear mandate by resolution as to the future action of the Council.

STATE REGISTRATION DEMANDED.

The Chairman then called on Miss E. M. Musson, R.R.C., President of General Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League, to move the first Resolution, saying that the meeting was greatly indebted to her for coming up from the Midlands to speak at the meeting.

Miss Musson, who on rising was warmly applauded, submitted the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION I.

Whereas this Meeting of Trained Nurses is convinced that only through an Act of Parliament providing for the State Registration of Trained Nurses by an elected Body, on which the registered nurses themselves have direct and sufficient representation, can the Profession of Nursing be effectively and justly organised; and that any voluntary scheme, such as that proposed by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman of the Joint War Committee, in his Circular Letter to Hospital Committees is calculated to impede such legislation: this Meeting emphatically supports the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and desires to urge upon the Government, and upon Parliament, the pressing necessity which exists for passing such a Bill.

It would further remind them:—

(a) That a Select Committee of the House of Commons has unanimously recommended such legislation;

(b) That the House of Lords has accepted the principle of Nurses' Registration, by passing a Bill in its support;

(c) That the House of Commons has given proof of its sympathy with the principle of such legislation, by its recorded majority of 228 to introduce the Bill into that House;

(d) That the medical profession in this country, through the British Medical Association, has on numerous occasions passed resolutions, expressing its approval of the State Registration of Trained Nurses;

(e) That the self-governing associations of nurses in England, Scotland and Ireland unanimously desire it;

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