

to the scrubbers. In conclusion, Mrs. Andrews said that any who spent their lives as she did going about one third of the Kingdom into various institutions where nurses were employed, would realize that there were not only the untrained to be considered, but also the appallingly chaotic condition amongst trained nurses themselves.

Miss E. C. BARTON, President of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association, said she had worked for years in support of the Registration movement. She believed nothing else would meet the needs of nurses or the public. She was glad that Mr. Stanley and his advisers were to meet the representatives of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and exchange points of view.

Miss H. L. PEARSE, Superintendent of L.C.C. School Nurses, said she hoped great things of the Conference. She hoped all the promoters of Mr. Stanley's scheme would be converted to State Registration.

Miss M. BREAY, Hon. Secretary of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, thought the British Red Cross Society was a most unfortunate body to attempt to organise trained nurses. It had always shown itself most unsympathetic to them, and until the outbreak of the present War had never attempted to organise them for its own needs in any way. When war was declared it was the Territorial Hospitals, which were only intended to be mobilised in case of invasion, which had saved the problem of the care of the sick and wounded outside the regular naval and military hospitals from a debacle. The organisation of the nursing in those hospitals was in professional hands. Very little was heard of it, but she believed she was right in saying that within twenty-four hours of mobilisation every trained nurse was in her place.

The British Red Cross Society, on the other hand, had no Roll of trained nurses upon which to call. Did any of those present call at Devonshire House in August 1914? If so they had seen it besieged by nurses of all kinds, suitable and unsuitable, and a number of worried-looking ladies endeavouring to sift qualifications and take up references, of the value of which they knew nothing. It was not the time to take up references after war was declared.

Again, in the Balkan War a few years ago the trained nurses who wished to assist the sick and wounded there, who applied on the outbreak of war to be sent out through the British Red Cross, were refused. A certain number did find their way out, but no thanks to the good offices of our Red Cross Society. She had seen two nurses off at that time, and they were wearing not the Red Cross but the Red Crescent.

In the present War the British Red Cross Society had been compelled to utilise the services of trained nurses, but she did not think that any of them were particularly satisfied with the conditions under which they worked, or that

the Society had shown so much capacity in managing its internal nursing affairs that it could with confidence be entrusted with the organisation of the profession at large. That should be in professional hands, not in those of people who no doubt wished nurses well but did not understand their needs.

The Resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously, the most careful and rigid scrutiny failing to discover a hand raised in opposition to it.

POWER TO OPPOSE.

The next Resolution was moved by Miss E. Pell-Smith, Vice-President of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League.

RESOLUTION II.

That should the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Nursing College Scheme when drafted be found inimical to the best interests of the whole Nursing Profession, the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland be directed to oppose its incorporation, without the word "Limited," by the Board of Trade.

In moving the Resolution, Miss Pell Smith said:

In spite of the splendid work done by Mrs. Fenwick and others in connection with the Registration Cause there is still shameful ignorance in the provinces in regard to it, and the nurses needed protection. I have therefore much pleasure in proposing the Resolution.

Mrs. PORTER, past President of the Irish Nurses' Association, who seconded the Resolution, said: It seems to me that this Nursing College scheme is one full of danger to the interests of trained nurses, the majority of whom are at the moment unable to give voice to their opinions, being scattered in different parts of the world; and those who are left at home are so fully occupied in tending the sick and wounded that they have little or no time to give to attend to their own interests. I ask you, is it just, is it right, that the promoters of this scheme should choose this time to legislate for nurses? What advantage would be gained by nurses through this College? Would its certificate give any higher status than the certificate of any recognised hospital?

A word regarding the Irish Nurses' Association: the President has already read to you the very strong resolution which was passed at the last meeting of the Association on Saturday, 5th inst., which so strongly supports registration and shows the disapproval of the Irish Nurses of Mr. Stanley's scheme. I have worked very intimately with the Irish Nurses' Association, and you can take it from me that the members of the Association are almost unanimous in their support of State Registration as being the only form of protection which they will accept.

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