

one's breath away. We wonder what the associated medical profession would say if it were proposed that the Medical Council should consist of nurses, philanthropists, and members of Parliament? It never seems to strike them that the great women's profession *par excellence* is entitled to the same status, dignity and independence as those which comprise men."

THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND.

We wish at the earliest opportunity to contradict the statement made in Macmillan's lay-edited paper for nurses that we claimed in our speech at the National Council Meeting, on the 12th, that "there must be a high standard for nurses in this country, and it must be made compulsory."

What we claim is that by Act of Parliament a system of legal registration of trained nurses shall be authorised, as provided in the Nurses' Registration Bill. This Bill does not make State Registration compulsory, and we have never advocated that it should do so. When the Bill is passed—and the sooner the better—no nurse will be compelled to register, but she will not be permitted to use the statutory title of "Registered Nurse," unless she does so. These inaccurate "howlers" are sure to occur where lay women accept the responsibility of posing as professional experts, and this is the chief reason we deprecate a quack nursing press.

Anyway, the statement is untrue and misleading as far as we are concerned.

Also this same publication, presumably to minimise the representative character of the National Council Meeting, made a second inaccurate statement concerning the number of "women present." More than double the number attended the meeting than that stated by the journal in question. We are, however, used to covert antagonism towards self-governing organization of trained nurses by the employers' press, and so long as there is "money in us," we presume we shall continue to suffer from such tactics.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Frome Branch of the National Union of Trained Nurses had a good gathering on Wednesday, February 16th, for the Annual Meeting held this year at Orchardleigh by the invitation of Rev. W. Arthur and Hon. Mrs. Duckworth. Sixteen professional members were present, though several others were prevented from coming by the very stormy day. Among members were Miss Daniel (co-Hon. Secretary with Miss Duckworth), Miss Sumner and seven nurses of Victoria Hospital and Nurses' Home, Miss Selway, Miss Mountain, Queen's Nurse of Mellis, and other

district nurses. Among the Associates were Countess Cairns, Mrs. Daniel, and Miss Baily who kindly consented to serve the branch again as Hon. Treasurer. Miss Eden, Hon. Secretary N.U.T.N., presided at the meeting. It was her first visit to the branch since it started in 1912. After the adoption of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet and the re-election of the Committee and officers, Miss Eden spoke of the growth of the Union in relation to the needs and questions of the present day. The Union had 2,000 members and it was important to increase the number in order to fulfil its aims and objects as a National Union. At the beginning of the War the N.U.T.N. Central Office had been the means of immediately sending seventy trained nurses to St. John Ambulance Association and the N.U.T.N. War Register was supplying many hospitals at home and abroad with reliable nurses. Miss Eden gave a short explanation of the difference between the proposals for State Registration and for a Nursing College. Red Cross members of the Frome V.A.D. now working at the War Depot and other friends interested in nursing joined the party to hear Miss Eden's lecture on the History of Nursing, this was illustrated by a selection of her lantern slides taken from old manuscripts and other pictures describing district and military nursing from the days of St. Vincent de Paul and of Florence Nightingale to the present time. The snapshots of patients and nurses at the Urgency Cases Hospital in France and of mothers and babies at the Home at Chalons-sur-Marne, particularly interested those who had worked for them and the war slides of Miss Thurstan with the flying Nursing Corps in Russia were appreciated by all who had heard her lecture last May. Miss Thurstan had lately been organising a medical relief expedition for the Polish refugees in Petrograd and Miss Pye who had superintended the Home at Chalons-sur-Marne was now organising further relief and constructive work among the refugees of the devastated countries.

Mrs. Duckworth offered a vote of thanks to Miss Eden for her interesting lecture and thanked Mr. Waldegrave for showing the slides with his magic lantern. She expressed her own and Mr. Duckworth's pleasure in welcoming the members of the Union and so many friends to Orchardleigh. A collection was made and Miss Duckworth stated that the proceeds would be divided between the Central Fund and the N.U.T.N. Cavell Memorial Fund in aid of sick and aged nurses. The afternoon began with a short service in Orchardleigh Church.

IN AID OF STATE REGISTRATION.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, acknowledges with thanks the following donations in support of the cause:—Miss M. N. Cureton, 10s.; Miss Pote Hunt 5s.; Miss E. Hunter, 5s.; Miss L. Havers, 5s.; Miss E. Ross, 5s.; and Miss H. Edmonds, 1s. 6d.

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