

THE VOLUNTARY NURSING COLLEGE SCHEME.

A number of representatives of Nurses' Organisations and others attended a meeting at 83, Pall Mall, S.W., on February 23rd in response to the following invitation issued by Miss Swift, Matron-in-Chief of the Nurses' Department under the Joint War Committee:—

Dear Madam,—You are invited to send a representative of the League which you represent to a meeting of the Committee to be held at this address on Wednesday, February 23rd, at 5 p.m., in Room 65, for the purpose of discussing the College of Nursing Scheme.

I am,
Yours very truly,
S. A. SWIFT
(Secretary, *pro tem.*)

The Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.V.O., M.P., presided, supported by those who have taken an active part in promoting the scheme, including the Hon. Sir Charles Russell, Sir Henry Burdett, K.C.B., Miss S. A. Swift, R.R.C., Miss L. V. Haughton, Matron of Guy's Hospital; Miss McIntosh, Matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Miss Lloyd-Still, Matron, and Mr. G. Q. Roberts, Secretary, St. Thomas' Hospital; Miss Darbyshire, Matron, St. Mary's Hospital; Miss Montgomery, Matron, Middlesex Hospital.

The following were the official representatives of the self-governing societies enumerated:—

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

Mr. Comyns Berkeley, M.C. Cantab., Royal British Nurses' Association.

Miss Beatrice Kent, Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses.

Miss E. C. Barton, Poor Law Infirmaries Matrons' Association.

Miss Cancellor, National Union of Trained Nurses.

Miss A. W. Gill, R.R.C., Scottish Matrons' Association.

Dr. McGregor Robertson, Scottish Nurses' Association.

Mrs. Porter, Irish Nurses' Association.

Lady Hermione Blackwood, President, Ulster Branch Irish Nurses' Association.

Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

Miss Sheldon, Guy's Hospital Nurses' League.

Miss M. Breay, League of St. John's House Nurses.

Miss H. L. Pearse, Miss Makepeace, School Nurses' League.

Miss Soal, League of Royal Free Hospital Nurses.

Miss O'Brien, University College Hospital Nurses' League.

Miss Ellis, Leicester Royal Infirmaries Nurses' League.

Miss Macfarlane, General Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League.

Others present were Dr. R. W. Stewart, Department of the Medical Director General of the Navy; Miss Sidney Browne, Territorial Force Nursing Service and Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service; Miss Amy Hughes, Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute; Miss Rosalind Paget; Miss Cox Davies, R.R.C., Matron, Royal Free Hospital; Miss Finch, Matron, University College Hospital; Miss C. Hoadley and Dr. Turney, Nurses' Co-operation; Miss Seymour Yapp, Poor Law Officers' Association.

The Chairman said that before asking Miss Haughton to speak it was necessary for him to make one or two remarks. He had seen it stated that it was an act of discourtesy on his part not to consult the organizations of nurses as to the Nursing College Scheme. He hoped those present would acquit him of any such intention. When he was first approached on the subject it was necessary for him to approach the principal training schools and hospitals to find out if the idea was likely to find favour with them. He therefore approached the Chairmen of the principal training schools, and at the same time some of the Matrons interested in the scheme wrote to the Matrons of these institutions, sending them a copy of his letter to the Chairmen. This was only in the nature of a feeler. The support received had been encouraging. He had also profited greatly by criticisms and suggestions made in the Press. The scheme had, however, only taken definite shape two or three days previously, so the meeting had really been called at the earliest possible date.

One word as to how it came into being. It had been suggested that someone—perhaps Lord Knutsford—was behind him, but this was not the case. He had seen Lord Knutsford and exchanged two or three letters with him, but he did not know whether he was with him, though he was anxious to do something to help on organization. Most of the hospital authorities consulted had replied in favour of some form of organization, but reserving judgment for the present as to his scheme.

Why he himself was prominent in promoting the scheme was because he happened at this moment to be the Chairman of a large neutral Association. At the end of the war he would disappear, though he did not think the British Red Cross Society would relapse entirely into the position it occupied before the war, but he assured those present that he had no axe to grind, and that when the moment came for him to retire into obscurity he should be very pleased.

He thought that all present were practically in favour of some form of State Registration.—(applause)—and he would briefly enumerate the most important points in his programme:—

(1) *State Recognition of Nurses.*—He preferred the word recognition for reasons which he would explain later.

(2) *Self-Government.*—It was proposed that the body to be created should be self-governing—for nurses, governed by nurses.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)