

Registration of Nurses, which drafted the Nurses' Registration Bill, had asked the Chairman to receive its official representatives, which he had consented to do, but the date was not yet fixed. As a Memorandum on the registration question was to be placed before him at that interview she did not now propose to speak at length.

With regard to the statement read by Miss Haughton, she considered it should have been drawn up with the knowledge and consent of those who were working for the organization of the nursing profession, but the Central Committee representing some 40,000 medical practitioners, Matrons, and nurses, many of whom had been working for a quarter of a century for the organization of the profession, knew nothing whatever about it. She might add that the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the representative Association of Matrons which had been foremost in working for Higher Education and the welfare of the nursing profession, had received no invitation to the present meeting and was consequently not represented.

The Chairman said he would deal with these questions at a later stage.

DR. MCGREGOR ROBERTSON, representing the Scottish Nurses' Association, said he attended the meeting specially instructed by his Committee in response to the invitation they had received. The present time appeared inopportune for the discussion of the question before them, when the large majority of trained nurses all over the country were engaged in work in support of the great national cause, and had no time for politics and little for self-defence.

Many of those on active service were ignorant of this new movement, and there was no means of informing them. If such a measure as this were brought forward they would be unable to take any active part in it, or to offer any opinion upon it. Was it a right thing, to use even a stronger word was it a decent thing to launch this new proposition at the present time, affecting the interests of women whose position prevented them from taking part in its consideration. He submitted that the present was not the proper time to introduce the question. All the organised societies of nurses had refrained from taking propagandist steps since the outbreak of war, and he thought it was not right that the apple of discord should be thrown in their midst.

The Scottish Nurses' Association, which had a membership of some 2,000 nurses, took part in the Deputation to the Prime Minister in 1913, and he had then informed Mr. Asquith that the large body of nurses which he represented were unanimous in their support of the Nurses' Registration Bill.

Further, the representatives of nurses not only in Scotland but in the three Kingdoms had met to consider the Bill. It had in fact been before a parliament of nurses, who sat for days and discussed all the steps taken. Every conference declared it would be content with no Bill which did not contain the principles embodied in the

Nurses' Registration Bill. Why not therefore adopt that Bill as a basis of discussion? Its promoters would not object to re-consider details, but would not reverse principles. The feeling of the nursing profession was strongly that there should be one portal of admission to its ranks, guarded by the State, and that there should be no back doors; also that there should be a three years' curriculum of training controlled by the State.

In regard to the four points contained in the scheme, so lucidly explained by the Chairman at the beginning of the meeting, they were all embodied in the Bill which the Conference of Nurses he had referred to had already discussed.

Let them take the Bill and meet once more in another conference, amending it where necessary, and endeavour to get agreement. That was one way of dealing with the present situation.

At present a Committee whose names they did not know had launched the proposition before the meeting for the promotion of a Nursing College. The Council governing it was to be nominated by the signatories to its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and were to proceed to produce a Register. That would not satisfy the nursing profession. If agreement could be obtained let the Committee, as he had suggested, summon a Conference, and go over the details of the Bill. The alternative was to drop all controversy till the conclusion of the war and concentrate on helping our fighting men, and keeping them fit. Then when the war was over another Conference of Nurses on a more extended basis even than that which met in 1910 could meet to deal with the whole question without distraction.

MISS CANCELLOR, representing the National Union of Trained Nurses, said she was not in a position to say much, because the society which she represented had only heard of the College scheme by chance, it had received no official notice whatever. It had, therefore, not been in a position to consult its members, numbering some 2,000 nurses who at present were serving their country in all parts of England, France, and elsewhere. Nor could they do so until they knew the details of the scheme, and who was answerable for it. At present they felt they were being treated like children, and kept in the dark. They had not seen a copy of the Memorandum of Association, nor did they know the names of the signatories. Who and what were the persons helping this scheme?

MISS GILL, Scottish Matrons' Association, said that her Association had not yet considered the scheme, but she hoped shortly to lay some details before her Council. She did not find amongst nurses any desire to hold back at the present time till a more convenient season. Nurses desired organization. She was glad to know that the Council controlling the College scheme was to be a self-governing body. She could assure her hearers that the Nursing Profession felt strong enough to be self-governing,

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