

without outside interference. Nurses were quite capable of managing their own affairs.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP, representing the Poor Law Officers' Association, said she had always been an ardent registrationist, but she did not care if registration were called recognition provided she got it. She did not think it likely that a Nurses' Registration Bill would get through at the present time, and contentious matters were best settled before going to Parliament, so that the College of Nursing, if established, might help to bring about what they had been desiring. She could only thank the promoters for their invitation to be present at the meeting, and assure them of her sympathy.

MISS BARTON, representing the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association, said she had worked for years to obtain State Registration of Nurses. She felt strongly that no voluntary measure, such as that proposed in the Nursing College Scheme, could give nurses the necessary status.

MRS. LANCELOT ANDREWS, representing the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, said that the League included 800 three years' certificated nurses. She was glad to hear the scheme explained by the Chairman, as so far the only information available had been his Circular Letter, and that explanation differed widely from the text of the letter on some points of vital importance.

The chaotic condition of the nursing profession was not a new one, though it has been intensified by the inrush of unskilled labour since the outbreak of war. It had been foreseen years ago, and the movement for State Registration of Nurses was the result of that foresight. It was a great pleasure to meet with a newer body which had awakened to the fact. There were one or two questions she would like to ask.

Did she understand it to be the opinion of the Chairman that if a Register of Trained Nurses were compiled there would be no difficulty in getting the Nurses' Registration Bill through Parliament?

Did she understand that at the end of three years the whole nominated Council proposed in the Nursing College Scheme would consist of a body elected by the nurses who were members of the College?

What was the advantage in having people interested in nursing as members of the Consultative Board?

She would also be glad of information as to what was intended by the institution of examinations "in all branches of women's work connected with hospitals." What exactly was the advantage of this? Was it intended to certificate women who were not nurses? She would be glad of information on this point.

MISS H. L. PEARSE, President of the School Nurses' League, said that a number of School Nurses under the London County Council were now abroad, and she received many letters from them. They were all keen registrationists. She

asked why the Nurses Registration Bill, which had been most carefully drafted, should not be studied and discussed clause by clause? Like Mrs. Andrews, she wished to know what was included in "other branches of women's work"?

MISS O'BRIEN, representing University College Hospital Nurses' League, said she represented some three hundred nurses. The League would support any scheme which had for its basis the establishment of a fixed standard, a universal curriculum, and a final examination, provided—and this was essential—that nurses received legal recognition on the lines accorded to doctors and lawyers. She would like information on that one point. Her League would wholeheartedly support anything which would raise the status, educational standard and efficiency of trained nurses, and secure for them legal recognition.

THE HON. SIR CHARLES RUSSELL, speaking as a solicitor, said that a hundred years ago there were a hundred different doors through which one might pass to become a solicitor, or attorney, as it was usually then called, after serving for a certain number of years. Consequently the profession fell into disrepute, just as the nursing profession suffered from Sairey Gamp and Betsy Prig, and was faced by the same difficulties. It was only when the solicitors formed a voluntary society, the Incorporated Law Society, that they got together. Further, they remained a voluntary society. No solicitor was bound to become a member unless he liked, but the foundation of the society had led to the State Recognition of attorneys, because it had instituted lectures and established examinations, and the State had handed over to its members first the entire conduct of examinations, and then the charge of the Roll, with power to strike off those who offended. In 999 out of 1,000 the Courts confirmed the report of the Incorporated Law Society in these cases.

It was necessary to insist on a high standard before the profession began to rise. Parliament was prone to help those who helped themselves. If the profession got together and formed a College he did not think it would be long before Parliament granted them powers as great as it had given to the Incorporated Law Society.

MISS MARY A. SOAL, representing the Royal Free Hospital Nurses' League, said that without a system of legal registration under State authority under which fully trained nurses would be practically compelled to register, there would be hundreds of half trained nurses throughout the kingdom, as now, posing as trained, and the nursing profession would be no better off than at present.

#### THE CHAIRMAN'S REPLY.

THE CHAIRMAN said that Sir Charles Russell, in drawing an analogy between the Incorporated Law Society and the proposed Nursing College, had endeavoured to show that the College might become sufficiently powerful to exercise the same pressure as that exerted by the former Society. Some solicitors remained outside it, but it was

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