

great women's profession, and the protection of the economic interests of nurses. She hoped that those before whom they had placed their case would realize the strength of their convictions. She believed that with Mr. Stanley's support, and the help of their colleagues who held such honourable and responsible positions in the nursing world—the Matrons of St. Thomas's, Guy's, and others—the Premier would consider that they had come to such substantial agreement on the Bill that he would grant time for its consideration in the House of Commons.

They would be no worse off if they held the Conference, and could not agree, but she hoped they would try to do so. She therefore pressed very earnestly for a Conference on the Bill.

Miss E. M. Musson, R.R.C., said that in Birmingham they had not yet had the opportunity of discussing the scheme in detail, as so far they had only received Mr. Stanley's Circular Letter, but she had had the opportunity of talking to her colleagues about it both individually and in associations.

She was very glad to find Mr. Stanley sympathetic to the principle of State Registration. The members of the General Hospital Birmingham Nurses' League felt that they could not support any scheme which did not wholly support legal Registration, and leading medical men in the Midlands were also in favour of Registration by the State. Great exception was taken to the nomination of the first Council, and to the little account paid to nurses working outside hospitals. The scheme guaranteed nothing to the large body of nurses already trained and practising. She warmly supported Mrs. Fenwick's proposal for a Conference on the Bill.

Miss COX DAVIES, R.R.C., said that she was in touch with a large number of nurses as President of the Leagues of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Royal Free Nurses, and, as Principal Matron of the First London General Territorial Hospital. She was emphatically in favour of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's suggestion. There was a strong feeling on the part of nurses that nothing but a definite legal position and State Registration would satisfy them. Education was not all. She thought the voice in that room was solid for recognition by the State, and that being so they had a common meeting ground. In regard to the economic condition of nurses, quite certainly something should be done as soon as possible. Not only the educational, but the economic conditions under which nurses worked were important. She could not help feeling that if all those present united nurses would have the protection they needed in a very short time.

Miss J. C. CHILD, South African Military Nursing Service, and formerly Matron of the New Somerset Hospital, Cape Town, said how very much the need of legal registration at home was felt in South Africa. Having attained that she thought a Nursing College would naturally

follow. She spoke of the difficulties which arose in South Africa through lack of legal status for nurses in this country, thus at the New Somerset Hospital all Sisters were required to be on the Cape Register before being accepted. When she entered on the position of Matron, and got the certificates of Sisters already selected, the certificates of two well-known hospitals in London were not accepted because the conditions of training were not in conformity with South African standards.

If a system of State Registration were in force at home there would be reciprocity of recognition and such instances would not occur.

She had no direct message from the South African Trained Nurses' Association, but it was their earnest desire to affiliate with the home country. There were good schools and excellent training in South Africa, and the nurses there strongly objected to nurses from overseas being appointed to positions there without being on their Register. That meant that thoroughly trained nurses from home had the humiliation of being obliged to pass an examination in South Africa before taking up posts there.

Mrs. PORTER (Irish Nurses' Association) said that Irish nurses felt that no measure short of one providing for their State Registration would be of use to them.

DR. TURNEY (Nurses' Co-operation) said that education and economics were both involved in the question of organisation. As chairman of the Committee of Management of the Nurses' Co-operation he was not blind to the economic interests of nurses. The question of organisation was one of great urgency. Voluntary helpers were doing excellent work in this war, but there was a danger of their being confused in the minds of the public with thoroughly trained nurses. If things were left as they were till the war was over the position of trained nurses would be prejudiced. The mere fact that Mr. Stanley had been willing to take up the question was an assurance that the members of Voluntary Aid Detachments would receive fair treatment, and that no injustice would be done to trained nurses.

In the conflicting policies the advocates of State Registration seemed to have fixed their attention entirely on the economic aspect. (No, no, and We dispute that.) A doctor did not care two-pence about his registration. The only time he troubled about it was in the law courts.

Those interested in education believed that in the long run no time would be lost by carrying out the College scheme, which aimed at the maximum, not the minimum, and wished to start with a high standard.

SIR CHARLES RUSSELL, who said that he advised Mr. Stanley from the legal point of view, expressed the opinion that there was no difference of principle between those who advocated State Registration and State Recognition—call it what you will. The question was how best to proceed. A Nurses' Registration Bill had been brought forward by

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