

better than anyone in the room. She was convinced that if they went to Parliament with an agreed Bill they would get registration, but if the College Scheme were put into practice first registration would be delayed for years.

Miss Cox DAVIES said that she saw some present who had never apparently been convinced of the desirability of registration before. All were urgently desirous of being united on this question; could they not really come to some conclusion by which they could become so.

Mr. COMYNS BERKELEY said that a large number present thought that State Registration would be deferred by the foundation of the College. If the College were founded, would Mr. Stanley and his advisers meet the Committee at the end of the war and form a sub-committee to draft a Bill? Mr. Stanley expressed his willingness. Mr. Berkeley suggested a Conference with the Articles of Association of the College as the basis of discussion.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK maintained that the Registration Bill should form the basis of discussion. The representatives of the Central Committee present were trustees of the interests of a large number of nurses.

Mr. STANLEY said there were several clauses in the Bill which the establishment of the College would render unnecessary. They must go ahead. Discussion over an agreed Bill would delay matters. He hoped to ask representatives of hospitals and training schools to a meeting, each to appoint a representative on the consultative board, which would be representative of all the training schools. If they added to that the different societies in the room, how would that do?

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, holding up the Bill, asked what was to become of that. Was it to go into the waste-paper basket?

Mr. STANLEY thought some clauses in the Bill would become unnecessary.

MAJOR CHAPPLE suggested that if both parties consulted their Parliamentary draughtsmen possibly the scheme and the Bill might be incorporated. Their aim should be to draft a comprehensive scheme. Why should each go separately?

Mr. STANLEY agreed to a Conference in three weeks' time.

PROFESSOR GLAISTER thought three weeks would be well spent in deliberation. It was agreed that each of the Societies affiliated to the Central Committee should send one delegate to the next Conference, and the meeting then separated after a vote of thanks to the Chair.

DATE OF NEXT CONFERENCE.

We learn as we go to press that the date fixed for the Conference is March 24th, at 3 p.m., at 83, Pall Mall, S.W.

The Memorandum and Articles of the proposed Nursing College are now in print, and are published by Eyre & Spottiswoode, Ltd., East Harding Street, London, E.C.

LEGAL OR VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION.

A large meeting of nurses was held at the Offices of the National Union of Trained Nurses on Thursday, March 9th, to discuss the Bill for State Registration and the proposed College of Nursing. The meeting was arranged jointly by the London Branch and the Scattered Members' Branch of the N.U.T.N. Amongst those present were Miss Amy Hughes (Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses), Miss Dowbiggin (Matron of Edmonton Infirmary), Miss Hulme (Hon. Sec. of the Matrons' Council), Miss Elma Smith (Matron of Westminster Infirmary), Miss Paget (Midwives Institute), Miss Muriel, late Matron of Myddelton Square Maternity Nursing Association, and others well known in the nursing world.

Miss Cancellor (Chairman of the Executive Committee, N.U.T.N.) took the chair. In introducing the speakers, Miss Beatrice Kent on State Registration, and Miss Atkey on the Nursing College, Miss Cancellor remarked that we must all try to keep an open mind on these important questions, not looking at them entirely from our own point of view, but from the point of view of humanity, and for the real betterment and organisation of the nursing profession.

Miss Beatrice Kent said that November 21st, 1887, was an important date in the history of nursing; for that was the birthday of a great reform. On that day a small band of zealous women met to discuss the organisation of the profession, and the little seed of the scheme of State Registration then sown has grown up and borne much fruit and spread all over the world.

Miss Kent went on to give a little history of the movement since that date, and she said that State Registration would give us the necessary power to govern and control our own profession, and not until then shall we be able to abolish many abuses that now exist. The Bill is designed (1) to protect the public from untrained nurses posing as trained nurses, by standardising training, both general and special.

(2) To protect the trained nurse because many abuses are at present put down to her for which she is not responsible, and to safeguard the trained nurse against unfair competition.

(3) To protect the patient.

Miss Kent reminded her hearers that the Bill did not aim at preventing untrained women from nursing for payment; it would not seek to prevent them nursing as before; all it will require of them will be that they do not mislead the public by assuming to be trained nurses. Miss Kent concluded her speech by pointing out that the Bill was not merely the Bill of a few people, but it was supported by various Societies, medical and nursing, and Leagues comprising altogether from 40 to 50 thousand persons.

Miss Atkey then explained the proposed scheme for the College of Nursing. She remarked that she was a State Registrationist and believed that the College of Nursing would bring about this

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