

very necessary reform. It was proposed to make different classes of classification. The general trained nurses would be in one class, the V.A.D.'s in another class, and any V.A.D. nurses posing as general trained nurses, would be struck off the roll*. The scheme of the College was to promote the education and training of persons wishing to become nurses. Miss Atkey thought that this would be a help and a safeguard to the Matrons in endeavouring to secure additional educational advantages for their probationers, as it is often difficult in the smaller provincial hospitals to adjust the education of the nurses with the needs of the patients and the requirements of the doctors.

The scheme will be educational and not interfere with the existing societies. Miss Atkey thought that the N.U.T.N. would occupy the same position towards the College of Nursing that the British Medical Association did towards the General Medical Council.

Miss Fletcher said that the movement must be a unanimous one and begged both parties to sink their differences.

Miss Hughes said that she was a staunch supporter of State Registration and has sympathy with those who have done all the spade work for so many years. The College of Nursing might act as a sort of Board towards getting the hoped for reforms, and she appealed to all present to carefully consider its merits.

Miss Hulme said that brains, enthusiasm and money have been freely given by nurses in order to get that legal recognition which only the State can bestow.

In criticising some of the details of the scheme, she mentioned this clause:—

"Exempting some of the training schools from sending their pupils up for the Central Examination" was a very dangerous one. If there was a Central Examination at all, she considered that every one should sit for it equally.

Miss Dowbiggin thought, too, that any exemptions of the kind were very dangerous, and showed her surprise that the Matrons of Poor Law Infirmaries had not been consulted about the scheme.

Miss Cancellor asked what steps the College of Nursing had taken to consult the Medical Societies, and the medical profession in general about the scheme.

She also warned nurses against signing any petitions in favour of the scheme until they knew exactly what the scheme was.

The discussion having ended, Miss Young proposed a vote of thanks to both the speakers for their able addresses, and then the attractions of afternoon tea claimed the attention of the meeting.

AT THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, MANCHESTER.

A meeting was held by the National Union of Trained Nurses at the Manchester Royal Infirmary on Saturday, March 11th. The meeting was not

*Then what control would they be under?—Ed.

confined to members, and some 150 nurses attended. Miss Haughton, Matron, Guy's Hospital, London, read a paper on the proposed College of Nursing. In the course of the subsequent discussion she stated that the interests of the proposed College of Nursing and those of the Society for State Registration were practically identical, but that the methods of endeavouring to obtain these interests differed in that the Society for State Registration desired legal recognition before compiling a register of trained nurses, whereas the pioneers of the College of Nursing, realising that the present time was inopportune for Parliamentary legislation, urged the compilation of a register before the introduction of a Bill. Miss Haughton further stated that she felt optimistic with regard to the movement, which not only had the support of those metropolitan schools which had formerly remained passive, but also of the large training schools having political power behind them, and which had previously been antagonistic to Registration.

Miss Sparshott, Matron Manchester Royal Infirmary and Organising Matron 2nd W.G. Hospital, who took the chair, remarked that nurses were apt to forget the corporate life of the nursing community. She questioned the weight of the opinion of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, for, she said, a rough analysis of the figures of members quoted would show that of the 40,000 the majority of these belonged to the medical profession. While paying a high tribute to these members she could not refrain from saying that she considered the prevailing state of chaos amongst the nursing profession, for which she realised the extreme urgency for immediate concerted action, was largely, if not wholly, due to the fact that medical men employed untrained and partially trained persons.

A general feeling of satisfaction amongst the nurses at the meeting was felt and shown as Miss Sparshott, an avowed anti-registrationist, expressed her willingness to co-operate in any movement which had for its object the welfare of nurses and the maintenance of a high standard in the profession.

LOUISE ARONOVICH.

As the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the proposed College of Nursing have not yet reached us, it is difficult to discuss the principles of the scheme. We may say, however, that the aims of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses and those of the College, as put forward by Miss Haughton, are by no means identical. The former Society claims to organise the nursing profession on a legal basis through an Act of Parliament, to secure a defined term and standard of training, and a central examination for all nurses before they can claim the protected legal title of "Registered Nurse." It demands one portal to the practice of nursing on a legal status. It provides for an elected governing body of

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