

STATE REGISTRATION AND THE NURSING COLLEGE.

The Conference agreed to by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Joint War Committee, between the representatives of the proposed College of Nursing, to consider the Nurses' Registration Bill, and the amendments proposed by Parliamentary draughtsmen, in order that the supporters of the Bill and the College might arrive at an agreed measure, was held at 83, Pall Mall, S.W., on Friday, March 24th, at 3 p.m. By invitation of Mr. Stanley and his supporters the scope of the Conference was considerably enlarged.

There were present the Hon. Arthur Stanley, in the chair, and the following advisers:—The Hon. Sir Charles Russell, Sir Cooper Perry, Sir Henry Burdett, Miss Swift, R.R.C. (Matron-in-Chief, Joint War Committee), Miss McIntosh (St. Bartholomew's), Miss Haughton (Guy's), Miss Lloyd Still (St. Thomas's), Miss Darbyshire (St. Mary's), Miss Montgomery (Middlesex), Miss Rosalind Paget, Miss Amy Hughes, Miss Vincent, R.R.C. (Leicester Royal Infirmary), Miss Seymour Yapp (Poor Law Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne), Dr. Turney (Chairman Nurses' Co-operation), Mr. G. O. Roberts (St. Thomas's), and Mr. E. W. Morris (London).

Representing the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, there were present:—Major Chapple, M.P., in charge of the Nurses' Registration Bill; Dr. E. W. Goodall and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, conjoint Hon. Secretaries, and Mr. Comyns Berkeley, Hon. Treasurer. *Ex-Officio*:—Dr. Goodall also represented the British Medical Association. Miss Heather-Bigg (Matrons' Council), Dr. Bezly Thorne (R.B.N.A.), Miss M. Breay (Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses), Dr. Foord Caiger (Fever Nurses' Association), Professor Glaister (Association for Promoting the State Registration of Nurses in Scotland), Dr. McGregor Robertson (Scottish Nurses' Association), Miss Reeves (Irish Nurses' Association),

There were also present by invitation Miss Stansfeld (Chief Woman Inspector L.G.B.), Miss Finch (University College Hospital), Miss Cox Davies, R.R.C. (Royal Free Hospital), Miss Edith Smith (Westminster Hospital), Lady Hermione Blackwood (Ulster Branch I.N.A.), Miss Barton, (Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association), Miss Cancellor (National Union of Trained Nurses), Miss Esther Young (late Matron Guy's), Miss D. S. Coode (St. Thomas's), Miss M. B. Monk (London), Miss C. Hoadley (Nurses' Co-operation), Miss E. J. Clark, Miss Shank (2nd London General Hospital, T.F.N.S.), Mrs. Lancelot Andrews (League St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses), Miss Musson, R.R.C. (General Hospital Birmingham Nurses' League), Miss Ashford (Queen's Hospital Birmingham Nurses' League), Miss Ellis (Royal Infirmary Leicester Nurses' League), Miss Bodley (Midland Matrons' Association), and Captain Butler, C.V.O.

THE CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS.

MR. STANLEY, in opening the Conference, said that the two former Conferences had had to be carried on without the Scheme being in front of the meeting. Now, for the past few days they had had the Memorandum and Articles of Association before them, and he thought it would be the best procedure to ask for such criticisms as had suggested themselves to those who had studied them, and to ask for such suggestions as would make it possible for those who viewed the thing on the whole with a favourable eye to give it their whole-hearted support.

POSITION OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

DR. MCGREGOR ROBERTSON (Scottish Nurses' Association) said that at a meeting held that morning of all the delegates of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, he was asked to submit some preliminary considerations. He thought there had been some mistake in the interpretation of some remarks made at the previous meeting. It was thought by some that objections were raised to any organisation of nurses while so many of the trained nurses of the country were preoccupied with matters connected with the war. That was not so. There was no question of that provided only that organisation proceeded on certain lines. The nurses who had left the country, and others who were preoccupied, had left in the Nurses' Registration Bill their last will and testament, embodying their views as to the direction in which State organisation should take place. No one would offer objection to organisation on those lines. Further, that last will and testament was left in the hands of trustees who were instructed to observe their wishes, and to guard their interests.

The Central Committee, consisting of the representatives of the organised societies of nurses in the three Kingdoms, was formed after a Conference to carry out the details of an approved scheme, and it had embodied in a Bill the details of those expressed declarations and wishes of the nurses.

That first Conference on June 28th, 1909, was held with the object of seeing whether the three Bills for the Registration of Nurses then before Parliament could not be brought into line. That Conference approved certain propositions. It adjourned and met again on July 26th, 1909, and reaffirmed those propositions as fundamental, the basis upon which the members present were prepared to proceed to consider the details of reorganisation.

A third conference was held on January 25th, 1910, and in the meantime progress has been made, and other organisations desired to be associated with the Committee, so that at this meeting all the nationally organised associations of nurses in the three Kingdoms were included. Before proceeding to discuss the details of any Bill they reaffirmed their belief in the need for State Registration and adopted certain resolutions carried substantially at the first Conference.

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