

These resolutions were:—

(1) "That this Conference is of opinion that State Registration can only be satisfactorily carried out by a single portal system for the United Kingdom, provided that the various parts of the United Kingdom be adequately represented; and that the principle of administrative decentralisation be not necessarily excluded.

(2) "That under a single-portal system nurses should be admitted to the Register only after (a) a three years' course of training with a definite curriculum prescribed by a Central Nursing Council, conducted in recognised hospitals and nursing schools, and (b) having passed a uniform State examination conducted by examiners appointed by, and under the supervision of the Central Nursing Council at suitable centres throughout the Kingdom."

These constituted a declaration by the nurses of the three Kingdoms of what they considered the vitals, the essentials, the fundamentals of any scheme for State Registration of Nurses.

The Central Committee, not a self-elected body but a body composed of delegates appointed by each of the constituent societies, were so wishful that there should be an agreed Bill, that they should be able to go forward and present to Parliament a Bill agreed upon by the British Red Cross Society, the Order of St. John, and the Central Committee, that they had proceeded under the guidance of Major Chapple to consider how the Memorandum and Articles of the College could be engrossed within that Bill, so that it could be established by legislative enactment, coincidentally with the obtaining of a Nurses' Registration Act. He did not think the Central Committee could go further than that in its endeavour to promote the interest of nurses, as well as of the suffering public. He mentioned it as a proof of the sincerity of that Committee in its desire to promote union if union could be attained. If the fundamental principles it had laid down were accepted not merely as convenient forms of expression but as a definite basis to which reference could subsequently be made, then the Central Committee would go forward to see by what means and in what manner these things could in the speediest way receive legislative sanction.

#### RESOLUTION.

DR. MCGREGOR ROBERTSON then said he would submit a Resolution, if so permitted:—

"That this meeting affirm as a basis of any possible agreement the necessity of (1) State Registration after (2) a uniform curriculum during (3) a three years' training completed (4) by a single-portal examination."

He made this proposal on behalf of the Executive Committee, and if the meeting affirmed those principles every endeavour would be made to adjust matters of secondary importance between them.

MISS REEVES (Irish Nurses' Association), seconded the Resolution. ||

PROFESSOR GLAISTER (Association for promoting the Registration of Nurses in Scotland) said that his Association pinned its faith to the fundamentals laid down as the minimum conditions. If Mr. Stanley could say authoritatively that these would form the basis of his action, as they did of the constituent societies, they could get along.

MISS MUSSON, R.R.C. (General Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League), said the League which she represented would not support any scheme which did not accept these fundamentals.

MRS. ANDREWS (League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses) supported the Resolution.

DR. BEZLY THORNE (R.B.N.A.), said those were the four points for which the Royal British Nurses' Association had contended for years. If they were the basis of any proposition brought forward in connection with the College of Nursing he could say certainly it would have the approval and co-operation of the R.B.N.A.

DR. GOODALL (British Medical Association) supported the resolution on its behalf. The Association was fully in agreement with those four cardinal points.

MISS ASHFORD (Queen's Hospital Birmingham Nurses' League) said the League quite agreed with these fundamental principles.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said that on behalf of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and other bodies which she represented, she, of course, subscribed to the fundamental principles for which they had been founded, but those principles must be embodied in a Bill.

DR. FOORD CAIGER on behalf of the Fever Nurses' Association numbering some 2,000 odd nurses supported these cardinal principles.

#### THE REAL ISSUE.

MAJOR CHAPPLE, M.P., said he thought there would be universal agreement in regard to this resolution, but it would not advance them one iota. They were all agreed about the uniform curriculum and he thought they were all agreed as to the three years' course, though he was not sure that all were agreed that the three years' course should go into the Bill. The real issue was whether they would proceed to get State enactment to remedy existing abuses. A large number of young women just now were receiving a very partial training in military hospitals, confined practically to the treatment of wounds and nothing else. There was a danger that when the war was over they would claim to be regarded as trained nurses, and they would be so, after a fashion, for the simple reason that you could get no definition of a trained nurse excepting by Act of Parliament. That was the present problem. Were we going on until we were faced with a greatly aggravated condition in which hundreds of young women, who did not know their own limitations, would claim to be trained nurses? They knew nothing about the symptoms of disease, or the indications of impending death, because the percentage of deaths in military hospitals was only 1½ to 2 per cent. You were going to have untrained nurses

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