

SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Saturday, April 1st, at 4 p.m., Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the Chair.

The meeting was convened to receive a report from the representatives of the Society of the conferences held with the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman Joint War Committee, and the promoters of the College of Nursing, Limited.

Miss M. Breay presented the following Report:—

REPORT.

Since the announcement of the scheme to found a College of Nursing for the government of the nursing profession, launched under the auspices of the Joint War Committee under the chairmanship of the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., three conferences, attended by delegates from this Society, have been held by the promoters.

The first, held at 83, Pall Mall, S.W., on February 23rd, was summoned for the purpose of discussing the College of Nursing Scheme, and attended by representatives of nurses' organisations. Miss Beatrice Kent attended as the representative of this Society.

Mr. Stanley defined the important points in his programme as State recognition of nurses, self-government, a uniform curriculum, a final examination and test for registration the same for all.

Miss Haughton then presented a paper on the College of Nursing.

A full report of this conference appears in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of March 4th.

The next meeting was one between the Hon. Arthur Stanley and his advisers, and representatives of the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, held at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, on March 2nd. The representatives of this Society on that occasion were Miss Beatrice Cutler and Miss M. Breay.

A memorandum was presented by Dr. Goodall on behalf of the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses. The report of this conference was published in the issues of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of March 11th and 18th, and subsequently republished in pamphlet form.

The last Conference, on March 24th, at 83, Pall Mall, S.W., was held after the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the College of Nursing had been in the hands of the affiliated societies for a few days. They were astonished to find that the scheme was the same, with the substitution of the word College for Society, and a few verbal alterations, with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the "Society for promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses," the incorporation of which, without

the word "Limited," was successfully opposed before the Board of Trade in May, 1905. This Scheme, like the present one, emanated from Guy's Hospital. In view of the widespread opposition in 1905, the promoters requested that the consideration of their application might be deferred until the Bills before Parliament for the Registration of Nurses had been disposed of, and the opponents were officially informed by the Board of Trade that the consideration of the application would accordingly stand over. That reason still holds good.

It seems almost incredible, therefore, that busy medical men and nurses should have been compelled to come to London from the provinces, Scotland and Ireland to discuss a scheme under another name which had been thoroughly discussed and rejected eleven years ago.

It was agreed at this meeting that the Nurses' Registration Bill should be taken as the basis of discussion at a meeting in three weeks' time, and that the Parliamentary draughtsmen on each side should suggest how the two schemes could be included.

This was carefully done by Major Chapple in collaboration with an eminent Parliamentary draughtsman at the House of Commons, and was ready for discussion at the meeting convened for March 24th.

The representative of this Society at the third Conference was Miss M. Breay, as it was agreed at the previous meeting that only one representative from each Society should attend, so that a small Conference should discuss the Nurses' Registration Bill and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the College in the hope of arriving at an agreed Bill.

Invitations to attend the Conference were, however, sent to a large number of other persons, so that upwards of fifty were present, the majority of whom were not intimately acquainted with the clauses of the Bill. Mr. Stanley ruled that it was impossible that the Bill could be discussed by so large a number, and the Conference took the form of the affirmation of general principles.

The following resolution was carried with two dissentients:—

"That this meeting affirms as the basis of any agreement the necessity of (1) State Registration, (2) Uniform curriculum, (3) A one-portal examination after such period of training as may be found desirable."

Owing to the informal method of conducting the Conferences, no minutes having been kept of the proceedings, there was much waste of time with a minimum of result, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the College of Nursing which are dangerously autocratic in so far as trained and practising nurses are concerned, were not considered in detail at all.

The promoters of the scheme, no doubt owing to the declared antagonism of the organised nurses' societies, which were prepared to oppose their application for incorporation by the Board of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)