

Trade without the word "Limited," decided to prevent this public expression of opinion by obtaining a licence as a Limited Liability Company.

A Council has been nominated by Mr. Stanley largely composed of the matrons of large general hospitals and a few doctors. So far the nurses themselves, whose educational and incidentally economic conditions are to be controlled, have no voice in the management of their own affairs. So that if a Bill for their registration by the State is not agreed upon between the legal and voluntary registrationists, the rank and file of the profession will find themselves in an exceedingly dependent and dangerous position under the constitution of the Nursing College.

MARGARET BREAY.

The Report having been adopted, the President gave a brief review of the situation. She reported that Mr Stanley had issued another invitation to the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, to appoint representatives to meet members of the registration sub-committee of the College of Nursing, in the hope that they would be able to come to an agreement upon the terms of a Bill to be brought before Parliament as an agreed Bill at as early a date as possible. She had seen Mr. Stanley and had been assured that if such a conference were agreed to, it would be conducted in a thoroughly business-like manner, the minutes of the proceedings to be recorded, thus there would be no ambiguity as to conclusions. Under such conditions she was prepared to support the appointment of delegates from the Central Committee to take part in the Conference.

Several members present took part in the discussion, all being of opinion that as the Nurses' Registration Bill was originally drafted by that Committee, and introduced into Parliament upon their behalf, none of the essential principles contained in it should be conceded. The profession as a whole was determined not to be governed by a nominated Body of Matrons and others, however admirable individually, such as the Council of the Nursing College, which was most undemocratic and undesirable. Trained nurses claimed and must insist on having a Governing Body under the Bill upon which they had direct and adequate representation. They were of opinion that Major Chapple, who realised their point of view, should retain control of the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Commons.

Ultimately the following Resolutions were passed unanimously:—

#### RESOLUTION I.

"This meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses emphatically re-affirms that only through an Act of Parliament providing for the State Registration of Trained Nurses by an elected Body, on which the registered nurses themselves have direct and sufficient representation, can

the Profession of Nursing be effectively and justly organized; and that any voluntary scheme, such as that proposed by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman of the Joint War Committee in the 'Memorandum and Articles of Association' of the College of Nursing is calculated to impede such legislation: this meeting therefore emphatically supports the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses drafted by the Central Committee, and desires to urge upon the Government, and upon Parliament, the pressing necessity which exists for passing such a Bill without delay."

#### RESOLUTION II.

"This Committee welcomes the proposal that representatives of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses should, in equal numbers, meet the representatives of the College of Nursing in conference, to discuss, without prejudice, a Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, in the hope that an agreed Bill may be adopted incorporating the principles embodied in the foregoing Resolution, and empowers its delegates to act on such a Committee."

#### RESOLUTION III.

"This Committee is of opinion that the Constitution of the proposed College of Nursing, as defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, is not only useless to effect the good organization of the Nursing Profession, but constitutes a danger to the personal and professional liberty of trained nurses, as it places the workers under a nominated Governing Body composed largely of hospital officials, who have no right to exercise authority over them. This Committee, therefore, recommends that a Nurses' Protection sub-committee be here and now constituted to safeguard, with vigilance, the rights and privileges at present enjoyed by certificated nurses."

The following Committee was then elected:—

#### NURSES' PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.

*Chair*, Miss E. B. Kingsford.

*Hon Secretary*, Miss H. Hawkins.

*Press Representative*, Miss B. Kent.

*Political Representative*, Miss A. Hulme.

Miss E. J. Hurlston.

Miss M. Harvey.

Miss C. Lee.

Mrs. Porter.

with power to add to their number.

#### THE BILL.

The Nurses' Registration Bill was considered with the additions proposed by Major Chapple after discussion with the Parliamentary draughtsmen. It was agreed to consider the suggestions more thoroughly at another meeting, but the suggestion of the President that a certain number of Matrons in active practice should be elected on the General Nursing Council by the Matrons of Hospitals to which medical and nursing schools were attached, was approved.

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