

sultative Board Work, (4) Examination Board Work, (5) Work on the Register of the College.

In relation to finance he should not like to say how he proposed to get the money, only he felt certain that the British public who had come forward so magnificently to ensure that sick and wounded sailors and soldiers should have every comfort that money could give were not going to fail the nursing profession which had done such gallant work with those sick and wounded.

The fifth committee would recommend to the Council what existing certificated nurses had a claim to be placed at once on the Register of the College. That Register might or might not be the one that they would eventually take to Parliament for statutory approval. Personally, he hoped it would be, but there were others who held different views.

The work of the College was meant from the beginning to be educational, and they hoped at once to proceed with the formation of Boards in Scotland and Ireland. He hoped one of the permanent memorials of this great War would be a College of Nursing in a central position in London.

Mr. Stanley stated he had heard two main objections to the scheme—the first, that it would postpone State Registration of Nurses; and the second, that it was not the right time to bring forward the proposal when so many nurses were away on duty at the Front and elsewhere. He came into this business with an open and entirely ignorant mind, and very soon discovered that the overwhelming feeling of the nurses, in whatever grade of the profession they were, was in favour of State Registration, and he had, therefore, been constrained to put State Registration as the first of the three fundamental principles upon which the College was founded.

With the second objection he disagreed. He thought that when the hundreds of nurses for whom places would have to be found, returned from War service, it would be a help to them to find at home a strongly organized body representative of nursing opinion. There was also the danger that a large number of women—he almost hesitated to mention the letters, V.A.D.—would come back after months of work in hospital, and they would have to be reckoned with. It was just as well for the certificated nurses, before these women came back, to have the reins of power in their own hands.

Mr. Stanley said that though Lord Knutsford had been unable to take part in these deliberations, if they could meet the views of the London Hospital on one or two points he believed they would obtain its support. He was not without hope that they might go forward as a united body. They had already appointed a small committee to confer with representatives of the bodies supporting State Registration.

MR. F. HALL-HALL, on behalf of the Treasurer of St. Thomas' Hospital, welcomed those present, and expressed his pleasure at placing the Governors' Hall at their disposal. He emphasised the fact that St. Thomas' Hospital at present retained an entirely free hand in regard to the scheme.

Discussion was then invited.

Amongst those who took part was Dr. Fisher, Medical Superintendent of the Shoreditch Infirmary, who while supporting State Registration, said that where he felt disquiet was in regard to the machinery which had been set up.

Criticising Mr. Stanley's circular letter he said that while doctors taught doctors, lawyers lawyers, engineers engineers, nurses were taught by medical men; and the teaching they received was just sufficient in the teacher's opinion to enable them to carry out the directions of the doctor and the treatment he proposed to give. Therefore on the Council of the College a very large and preponderating number of the representatives should be appointed from among the leading members of the medical profession. Doctors knew exactly how much a nurse should know. Too much knowledge to a nurse was dangerous. Mr. Stanley had not mentioned how many medical men he wished to have on the Council. They did not want to be faced with a position where the nurse had a profession and the medical man a profession, and they were at variance. Medical superintendents of infirmaries were in a position to speak because they controlled large numbers of nurses and knew exactly what their needs were. The Matrons had to guide the nurses; but they looked almost entirely to the medical teachers for the instruction of the nurses, and such instruction as the Matron was capable of giving she received from the medical teachers.

LORD SANDHURST enquired in what form the election of the Council was to be made and Mr. Stanley explained that the two-thirds Matrons or nurses practising their profession applied only to the first nominated Council. That Council would remain in power till 1918. After that by means of a secret ballot the members of the College could re-elect the retiring members of Council or elect any others in their place.

MR. BONHAM CARTER, Secretary of the Nightingale Fund, said when the question of State Registration of Nurses came before the world twenty years ago, St. Thomas' Hospital took a strong line against it. They had not yet agreed to decide upon approval of the form the College was going to take. They approved of what was originally proposed in the Circular Letter and gave it their blessing, but had not since met to discuss the matter. He wanted to know a little bit more how the College proposed to deal with the ladies, of whom they spoke with bated breath, who bore the mystic letters, V.A.D., after their names. They would number many thousands, and the Council would have to deal with them.

MR. STANLEY said he hoped the College would have in its own hands the examination and granting of certificates as to all classes of women's work in hospitals, including V.A.D.'s

MR. LEWIS (Chairman, Royal United Hospital, Bath) said he did not speak with bated breath of V.A.D.'s. He had had a good deal to do with them recently, and knew a good deal about them. He had for many years been in

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