

Kingdom. He said further that *no* Bill which did not contain the principles which it incorporated would be accepted by the nurses. He urged that the Nurses' Registration Bill be adopted as a basis of discussion, with the endeavour to secure an agreed Bill.

#### Second Conference.

March 2nd.—The delegates from the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses met Mr. Stanley and his advisers.

The Memorandum on the movement for State Registration, drafted by the Committee, was presented by Dr. Goodall (Hon. Med. Secretary of the Committee). I need not go into that Memorandum—you have all read it in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Dr. Goodall emphasised the cogent points of the Nurses' Bill, viz :—

- (a) State Registration, after
- (b) A uniform curriculum, during
- (c) A three years' training, completed
- (d) By a single-portal examination.

Mr. Stanley was asked to arrange a further conference, in three weeks' time, between the promoters of the College of Nursing, and the delegates of the Central Committee for State Registration of Trained Nurses—thus affording Major Chapple and Sir Charles Russell, with their Parliamentary draftsmen, time to consider the Nurses' Bill and the Memorandum of the College of Nursing, with its Articles of Association, with a view to drafting the outlines of an agreed Bill. With much reluctance Mr. Arthur Stanley acceded to this request, limiting, however, the number of delegates from each Society to one.

#### Third Conference.

March 24th was fixed for this most important Conference. The eight delegates, inspired by the hope that an agreed Bill would be brought within their reach, came with an open mind, ready to concede points, wherever possible without sacrificing principles. Instead, however, of meeting the promoters of the Voluntary Nursing College only, and discussing jointly the Trained Nurses' Registration Bill, and the Memorandum and Articles of the College, we found a crowded meeting of sympathisers with the College scheme. The Conference merged into an ordinary meeting, affirming principles, being too unwieldy to discuss clause by clause the Bill and the College Memorandum. This is I believe an outline of the Conferences.

The great danger of the Voluntary College of Nursing is the "Hall Mark of Proficiency" it will engrave on the untrained or partially trained woman—bringing her into unjust competition with the fully trained nurse. The bestowing of "Certificates of Proficiency," on women specialising in medical or surgical nursing, and on women, other than those engaged in hospital work, can only create and inflict on the community a grievous wrong. Such a diversity of "Certifi-

cates of Proficiency," will confuse the public; they will finally fail to recognise the fully trained nurse from the partially trained women.

It rests with the Nursing profession themselves—who *are* trained, and beyond the power of coercion from their training schools—to stand solidly for legal status and their rights and privileges as intelligent members of the body politic to govern their own profession.

#### THE BILL.

The proposals made by Major Chapple, M.P., after consultation with Parliamentary draftsmen, for bringing the Nurses' Registration Bill and the Nursing College Scheme into line, were then considered seriatim and approved.

#### RESOLUTION.

The following Resolution was carried, and the meeting then terminated.

"That this meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland desires at the earliest possible date to enter a protest against the constitution of the College of Nursing, Ltd. :—

"1. Because, as professional women, they strongly protest against any one person nominating a governing body for the Nursing Profession.

"2. Because the Council of the College is of an autocratic nature calculated to deprive certificated nurses of their rightful independence.

"This Council of Matrons awaits the result of negotiations *re* the Nurses Registration Bill between the legal and voluntary registrationists, when, unless an agreed Governing Body for the Nursing Profession is adopted by consent, providing for a just measure of direct representation for the profession at large, the Council will feel compelled to place the whole case before the public, in order to protect the liberties of the rank and file."

ANNIE E. HULME,  
Hon. Secretary.

#### THREE INTERESTING CEREMONIES.

Lord Aberdare, recently performed three interesting ceremonies at the King Edward VII Hospital, Cardiff. (1) Unveiled the portrait of the late King Edward VII, by Miss Margaret Lindsay Williams, (2) formally opened the Bruce Vaughan wing, (3) presented a bronze bust of himself, the work of Sir W. Goscombe John, R.A., to Colonel Bruce Vaughan. The new wing is named after Colonel Bruce Vaughan in recognition of his great work on behalf of the hospital. It contains 102 beds, and 10 beds for isolation purposes, with suitable accommodation both for nurses and servants. The wing includes the Llanbradach Ward, the Coronation Ward, and the John Nixon Ward, together with the Sir William James Thomas Ward, which is one of the finest in the provinces, and is brightly decorated with pictures of Welsh historical interest, and includes a fine pathological block and the Lady Aberdare operating theatre. The whole cost £40,000 to build, and £4,000 was spent on furnishing.

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