

powerful Training Schools, and the consequent deprivation of personal responsibility of individual Trained Nurses, also the registration of semi-trained women.

It supports democratic as opposed to autocratic organization of the Nursing Profession.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES AND STATE REGISTRATION.

A Meeting organized by Miss H. L. Pearse was held in the lecture room of the National Union of Trained Nurses, 46, Marsham Street, S.W., on the evening of April 18th. About sixty-five trained nurses attended.

Miss Pearse explained the Bill for State Registration. She interested her audience greatly, and made clear certain points which had hitherto been obscure to many. One was that provision is made for existing members of the nursing profession to go on to the Register during the three years' term of grace without a further examination; and the other was the arrangement for the possibility of organizing joint curricula between different hospitals—specialized and general, large and small. She impressed on her audience that the most important points to hold on to were:—

1. Registration by the State.
2. An elected Council.
3. A Central Examination.

The following resolution was passed:—

That this meeting of Trained Nurses wishes to record its opinion, that the Bill for State Registration of Trained Nurses, as drawn up by the Central Committee for Nurses' State Registration be brought before Parliament and urged as a War emergency measure and that arrangements for nurses' education as outlined in the proposed College of Nursing should follow, and not precede such legislation.

THE BRISTOL BRANCH.

An interesting meeting was held at Fortts' Restaurant, Clifton, on April 20th, to re-organise the local Branch of the National Union of Trained Nurses. The following honorary officers have now been appointed:—

Secretary: Miss M. C. Kennedy, Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Deputy-Secretary: Miss Symonds, 7, Unity Street, St. Phillip's.

Treasurer: Miss Culverwell, Chatworth House, Clifton.

It was decided to work on more purely professional lines for the future, and the Secretary will welcome the names of Sisters and Nurses who would like to join the Union.

BECKETT STREET INFIRMARY. TOWNSHIP OF LEEDS.

He that does not advance loses ground.

There is something specially applicable in this motto, so happily selected by the Matron, Miss Parker Spann, and her Sisters for the newly formed Infirmary Nurses' League. If taken seriously and conscientiously to heart, it will strengthen those weak in their professional faith, and support and encourage the loyal and strong.

The Matron, who is a convinced Registrationist, while allowing freedom of conscience to the Nurses, yet encourages them to embrace the same faith. I had the honour of addressing a large gathering of the nurses, probationers and Sisters on the evening of April 17th, besides outsiders, some of whom had come from a distance. They came with open and receptive minds to learn something more of State Registration, and all about the College of Nursing, Limited. I told them that I had come to witness to the truth as I believed it, and therefore I was bound to say that the constitution of the College as defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association was a distinct danger to the liberties of trained nurses, because it sets up lay government of the profession, which no other profession would tolerate—neither will we. I assured them that the constitution of the Registration Bill now before Parliament stands for the freedom of the Nursing Profession, because independent working nurses will be adequately represented on the Council. They clearly understood and appreciated the important difference between a *democratic* and *autocratic* form of Government.

It is much to be regretted that it is not possible for the Articles of Association of the College of Nursing to be carefully studied by every Nurse in the Kingdom. Failing that, it is essential that those who have done so, should warn the rest against the danger of associating themselves in any way with it, as, besides ourselves, we have the sick public to think of, and—more important still—*posterity*. We must stand firm to our principles; there must be no wobbling. This dangerous attack upon our professional freedom must be repulsed.

The following Matrons attended the meeting:—Miss Lewis (Hunslet Union Infirmary), Miss Cross (Wakefield Union Infirmary), Miss Hare (North Brierley), Miss Kershaw (Dewsbury Infirmary), Mrs. Dodge (Holbeck Union Infirmary), Miss Williams (Sister in the same), and Miss Ward (Bramley).

It says much for the professional enthusiasm of these ladies that they would come out in these dark evenings—one from a distance of 15 miles—to listen to any sort of lecture!

Busy people always find time for a little extra work! It goes without saying that Miss Spann, who superintends a large hospital of 1,100 beds, is a very busy woman, nevertheless she most

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)