

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was, by kind permission of the Royal Society of Medicine, held at No. 1, Wimpole Street, London, W., on Thursday, June 8th. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, was in the chair, and was supported on the platform by Miss M. Heather-Bigg, President of the Matrons' Council, and Mrs. Strong, President of the Scottish Nurses' Association.

The red and white flowers on the platform formed a pleasant note of colour.

Miss Breay, Hon. Secretary, read the following telegram from Sir Victor Horsley, a Vice-President of the Society, whose presence at the meeting was much missed:—

"Matrons Sisters Nurses here solid State Registration. Consider College useless, unworthy Nursing Profession.

"Horsley. Amara, Mesopotamia."

Letters of regret from members unable to be present were reported, including one from Miss S. A. Villiers, Matron of the South-Western Fever Hospital, who wrote:—"I am taking my holiday in June, and am doing a little work on the land, so feel I am trying to help a little."

Miss J. C. Child, at present on duty in the South African Military Hospital at Bourne-mouth, wrote:—"The South African Military Nursing Service members are forming an Overseas Branch of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, so that we may be in united touch with the South African progress. All are watching with interest the present crisis in the political condition of the trained nurses' world in Great Britain."

The names and qualifications of sixty-five applicants for membership were then read by the Hon. Secretary, and they were elected unanimously and with cheers.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The fourteenth annual report, presented by the Hon. Secretary, emphasized the imperative necessity for the standardization of Nursing Education, the registration under the authority of the State of those who attain the prescribed standard, and the protection of the title of Registered Nurse.

The Report stated that during the year 526 new members have been elected, bringing the total number of those who have joined the Society up to 4,100; that, the Executive Committee has met six times, and transacted a large amount of business, and that a Nurses Protection Committee has been formed with Miss E. B. Kingsford as Chairman.

It further stated that the value of focussing the professional support of the Nurses Registration Bill in the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses has never been more apparent than during the present year. It has held a watching brief, and from its representative composition has been able to voice and protect the interests of the nursing profession.

The Report referred at some length to the proposal incorporated in a Circular Letter issued by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., on December 30th, 1915, concerning the foundation of a College of Nursing, outlining a scheme for the government of the Nursing Profession by such a College through a voluntary scheme of co-operation amongst the Nurse Training Schools of the country. None of the self-governing associations of Nurses were consulted, but when the proposal was brought to their notice through the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* it was widely felt that no scheme which did not provide for the registration of trained nurses through a Nurses Registration Act, providing for the direct and adequate representation of the registered nurses upon their Governing Body would meet the needs, or secure the support, of the organized nurses throughout the three Kingdoms, and that, while the Nurse Training Schools were concerned with the education of the nurse-in-training, it would be highly dangerous, as well as economically unsound, to make them the governing authority of the certificated nurses who had passed from their jurisdiction into the open labour market, as in no instance are employers of labour given such control over workers towards whom they have no responsibility for providing employment.

The action taken by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, and other bodies, was then detailed.

NEW APPLICATION FORM.

The addition of the following declaration to the form of Application for Membership of the Society was also notified.

To the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

I, the undersigned, hereby apply to be elected a Member of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and enclose 1s. for this year's Subscription.

I am in favour of the following objects of the Society:—

1. State Registration of Trained Nurses by Act of Parliament.
2. An elected Governing Body for the Nursing Profession, on which the registered nurses have direct and adequate representation.
3. A Central Examination for all nurses, at the expiration of the term of grace provided for in the Nurses Registration Bill, before admission to the Register.
4. The protected title of Registered Nurse for those placed on the General Register.

The Report was unanimously adopted.

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