

whole (as apart from nurses registered by the College) to direct representation on their own Governing Body. We stood firmly for this vital principle and it was ultimately conceded.

In the meantime the College of Nursing has drafted a Bill, which is marked confidential, and as both parties have now Bills in black and white it remains to be seen if they can be combined, made acceptable to both sides, and presented to Parliament. After the six months' "conversations" we have agreed that Registration by the State is imperative, instead of a voluntary system, for the effective organisation of the Nursing Profession. We have agreed that trained nurses must have the protected title of "Registered Nurse." We have agreed that there must be adequate and direct representation of the registered nurses on their Governing Body, so that we have made some progress, but we have got to agree upon the constitution of a Governing Body the General Nursing Council, and that is the crux of the whole question. We shall not be satisfied with any form of monopoly, through a restricted electorate in the first instance, or government without consent. One man—or rather one woman—one vote is our demand, and from as wide a constituency as possible. Let us hope we may come to a just agreement, otherwise it will be our bounden duty to resist coercion, and to fight for what we know to be right for the profession as a whole.

RESOLUTION.

The following Resolution was then proposed by Mrs. Strong, President of the Scottish Nurses' Association:—

"This meeting emphatically affirms that any Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses must make provision for the direct and adequate representation of the Registered Nurses themselves upon the Governing Body authorised by Parliament, if it is to receive the support of the thousands of Certificated Nurses united in this Society."

In proposing the Resolution, Mrs. Strong said that it was a great advance to have made, to concede that there must be State Registration of Trained Nurses, but there must also be direct and adequate representation of the Registered Nurses themselves on the Governing Body authorized by Parliament. At the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, from 1893 onwards, she had taught the probationers that so long as they were in training their duty was to obey, but that at the same time they must think for themselves, and make observations for their guidance when they left the hospital and went out into the world. Although the larger number of the Matrons of the principal hospitals in London might be satisfied with the recognition of the examinations of nurses in those hospitals, they forgot that in Scotland, Ireland, and the Provinces there were many hospitals, giving the

best of training, which were at a disadvantage. Preliminary training could be given in connection with the Nursing Schools, but there must be a Central Governing Body, with the State Examination and Registration of Nurses who had passed through the curriculum of these schools. If the nurses trained in them showed they were not up to the mark, they could go back and try again, but it was most unfair that the excellent training given in the smaller nursing schools throughout the country should not be recognized. Mrs. Strong then read the Resolution, and said that she had much pleasure in proposing it.

Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, in seconding it, said it was very remarkable that it should be necessary to move such a resolution. She doubted if any other meeting of working women would find it necessary to propose a similar one.

Trained nurses were determined to be represented by people of their own choosing upon their governing body. They believed that they would choose those best qualified for the responsible duties they would be called upon to perform. If this proved not to be the case, the nurses would at least have the satisfaction of knowing it was their own fault, but the mere fact of having power and responsibility was a great education.

Miss Beatrice Kent, in supporting the Resolution and referring to the College of Nursing, said that the idea of a College appealed to all; they liked the idea, but organization of the profession through such a College on a voluntary basis was like putting the cart before the horse, and building on sand. She emphasised the need for direct representation of nurses upon their Governing Body, and for the protected title of Registered Nurse for those who attained the required standard.

The meeting concluded with a cordial vote of thanks to the Royal Society of Medicine for the use of the room, proposed by Miss M. Heather-Bigg, President of the Matrons' Council, seconded by Miss B. Cutler, Hon. Secretary, National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

A vote of thanks to the chair, proposed by Mrs. Strong, was carried by acclamation.

At the conclusion of the meeting those present adjourned to 2, Portland Place, where Mrs. Walter Spencer and Miss "Biddy" Spencer, with genial hospitality, entertained them to a most refreshing tea, and afforded the members the much-appreciated opportunity of meeting one another in social intercourse, when the general hope was expressed that a Nurses' Registration Bill might be agreed upon by the

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