

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

THE CONSULTATIVE BOARD.

A meeting of those nominated by the Nurse Training Schools of Hospitals and Poor Law Infirmaries, as representatives on the Consultative Board of the College of Nursing, Ltd., was held in the Great Hall of St. Thomas' Hospital, kindly lent by the Governors, on June 15th, at 3 p.m., when the topics proposed for discussion by the Council were: (1) The first draft of a Bill for the Registration of Nurses to be promoted by the College; (2) the formation of the first register of members of the College and the general conditions for the admission to it of nurses now in practice; and (3) the constitution of the Consultative Board.

The Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., M.V.O., C.B., was in the chair, and was supported on the platform by Mr. J. G. Wainwright, J.P., Treasurer of St. Thomas' Hospital; Mr. H. Cosmo Bonsor, President of Guy's Hospital, and members of the Council of the College.

The Chairman invited Mr. Cosmo Bonsor, who had to leave the meeting immediately, to say a few words, and Mr. Bonsor said that during the 35 years he had had the honour of being a Governor of Guy's he had taken a keen interest in the welfare of the nursing profession, and had been very disappointed frequently that the professional nurses of this country should never have received State recognition. He was only too pleased to be on the platform and to see the large meeting who he felt sure were anxious to see that the profession of nursing was at last properly recognised as one of the great professions of the country and given the recognition by the State and by the public which was its due.

The Chairman said he did not think he need go into the whole question of how the College came to be founded. It was actually in being, but they wanted the opinion of the meeting on how it was to be made the most effective instrument for securing the recognition of nurses and the status of the nursing profession.

They had received a certain amount of criticism for starting the College as a Limited Liability Company. They did it in order to get to work. Once the Bill, about which he would speak later, was passed the word "Limited" would drop out, and they would cease to have that stigma. He hoped eventually they would find themselves "The Royal College of Nursing" without "Limited."

The objects of the College were: (1) To promote the better education and training of nurses and the advancement of nursing as a profession in all or any of its branches; (2) to promote uniformity of curriculum; (3) to recognise approved Training Schools; (4) to make and maintain a Register of Nurses; and (5) to promote Bills in Parliament for any object connected with the interests of nurses and, in particular, with their

education, organization, protection, and for their recognition by the State.

He referred to the Royal British Nurses Association, and said he had been asked why they did not simply strengthen that body. Times had moved on since the R.B.N.A. received its Royal Charter, and the objects sought by the College were somewhat broader than those mentioned in that Charter. They had had several conferences, and had every reason to hope that they would come to an agreement. Princess Christian, President of the Association, had authorised him to say that should a satisfactory scheme of union between the College of Nursing and the Royal British Nurses Association be formulated Her Royal Highness would be disposed to accept a position of honour in the conjoint Society.

THE DRAFT BILL FOR THE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

Mr. Stanley then said that, as those present were aware, there had already been before Parliament a Bill for the Registration of Nurses promoted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. They had had several conferences with the representatives of that Committee, and although he could not present the Draft Bill before them to the meeting as an agreed Bill, he could say that they had gone very far towards agreement, and that substantially it represented the outcome of their conferences. They would see the Bill provided that the College of Nursing, Ltd., should be authorised to drop the word "Limited," and would be called the General Nursing Council and College of Nursing.

Mr. Stanley then detailed the conditions of admission to the Register which it was intended to form.

Acting on the advice of Sir Charles Russell, and Mr. Vesey Knox, K.C., who had both been good enough to give their services in this matter, they had worked on the basis of the Bill already promoted, and tried to simplify it in every possible way. Parliament in these strenuous days was much more inclined to entrust a body such as this with general powers, and not to waste its time arguing about rules and regulations, but to leave them to be approved by the Privy Council. The most important point in the Constitution was this. They wanted the College of Nursing to hold practically the same position in the nursing profession as the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons did in the medical profession. They also thought it right, especially in this democratic age, that the power in the Council should be entrusted to the nurses themselves. (Applause.) He thought nobody would disagree with that. Nurses had done most splendid work during the past two years, and if they were fit to do that work, and if they were fit to have a college at all, they were fit to govern it. (Applause.) But of course the profession of nursing was rather different from some others. There was, there must be, a very large mixture in administration with the lay element

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