

He thought it would be wise to provide in Clause 5 that three members of the General Nursing Council should be directly nominated by the British Medical Association, which had been recognised in previous Bills. It would save much misapprehension as to a very uncertain Clause if the nomination of three members out of the number to be appointed by the Privy Council or other bodies were directly given to the British Medical Association, which, together with the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, had, for the last 25 years, worked to secure the objects for which they were met that day, and for which the College of Nursing had been founded.

The CHAIRMAN said they had not put the British Medical Association into the first draft of the Bill, but thought it probable that it would end by the representatives of the medical profession being nominated by the B.M.A.

MR. BATCHELOR, Warneford Hospital, Leamington, spoke of the importance of some court of appeal in settling the standard of the hospitals competent to grant certificates to nurses. The hospital he represented, though small, was thoroughly up to date. If the smaller hospitals were excluded it would be impossible for them to get probationers. There was a very general feeling that they would be excluded.

THE CHAIRMAN did not take it that they were to be excluded, and the speaker said that assurance would be a relief to several of the smaller hospitals.

MRS. BENJAMIN wished to know if the examinations held at the various training schools would be abolished; and Mr. Stanley said how that question would be settled he had not the faintest notion.

A question sent up in writing was: "Does 'all classes of women's work, except doctors and midwives,' include dispensers, clerks, and domestic staffs such as cooks, sewing maids, ward maids and scrubbers?" Mr. Stanley replied that he was not quite certain about the scrubbers; but if the College became what it ought to be it would give certificates for every branch of women's work connected with hospitals. Nothing could possibly be more important than a certificate to the cook.

Another question was: "Will two-thirds of the Council always consist of Matrons or trained nurses, or only two-thirds of the first nominated Council? Will the registered nurses be able to elect to it any persons they choose?" Mr. Stanley replied: "Yes, anybody they choose. It will be a postal ballot, a private ballot, and it will afford a splendid chance for the nurses to vote their Matron off it if they do not like her."

Another question asked was whether canvassing so large an electorate, and addressing meetings all over the country, or calling on Matrons and influencing their staffs through them, would not be a great tax on the time and money of the best and most occupied Matrons, and give an unfair advantage to candidates who were at leisure or happened to have control of funds? Mr. Stanley replied that that had happened everywhere with regard to elections.

He had heard some of the richest and most influential men had even happened to get elected Members of Parliament. But every nurse would have a vote. You could not get a much wider electorate than that.

The question of the Consultative Board was then considered, and the feeling of the meeting when the Chairman called for a show of hands was in favour of the larger body.

DR. MURRAY LESLIE enquired if the question of male nurses was to be considered at all. Mr. Stanley answered in the affirmative.

In the Bill before Parliament now, the male nurse was put in separately. They had left him out thinking that nurses included everybody; but since then he had heard arguments which caused him to think that it might be necessary to deal with male nurses separately.

DR. MURRAY LESLIE said he was very strongly of opinion that it would be absolutely necessary.

MR. CHARLES LUPTON, Chairman of the Leeds Infirmary and Lord Mayor of Leeds, asked whether it was the intention that the nurses in training schools falling in with this scheme should have their only diploma by examination. From what he had heard that afternoon, and from what he had read, he thought there was a danger of nurses being tested chiefly by a written examination instead of by the record of their work. The busier the school, the harder worked the nurse, the less chance she had of perfecting herself in book knowledge, and so might compare unfavourably with a nurse with less practical knowledge.

Another question: "What about the village nurses?" was characterised by Mr. Stanley as "a very difficult one which would tax all the mental efforts of the Consultative Board and the Council." Surely it is not quite so bad as that.

At this juncture tea in the Nightingale Home was announced, and with a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Wainwright, the Governors, and Miss Lloyd-Still, the meeting concluded.

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

During the past fortnight there have been several consultations of an eminently satisfactory nature on the clauses of the Nurses' Registration Bill between Mr. Stanley and the Hon. Secretaries of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, the result of which will be reported to the Central Committee for its consideration on June 22nd.

In an article written by "F. Thorne," on the "Organization of a Great Profession," in the *World's Work*, the statement is made that, "Major Chapple, M.P., who has for years fathered the State Registration Bill in the House of Commons, has handed it over, lock, stock and barrel, to Mr. Stanley." This is entirely incorrect. The Bill drafted by the Central Registration Committee is all ready to be introduced into the House of Commons, should this committee and the College of Nursing fail to agree upon a conjoint Bill.

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