

whom rested the onus of defending the Financiers' Scheme, made a good-natured but not very forcible reply to the objections which had been raised. He thanked the Board of Trade for the hearing accorded to those present.

Dealing with the first objection, that the scheme was promoted by seven gentlemen of the City of London who knew nothing of nursing, he said that as hospital managers these gentlemen took the greatest interest in nurses. Taking that interest, they had been approached by trained ladies and asked to undertake the formation of a company. As business men they were competent in one particular. They know how to mind their own business, and not to interfere.

The Council would consist of trained nurses and medical men, and the moment it was formed the promoters would go into the background. They were not opposed to State Registration. On that point they were neutral. If Parliament in its wisdom passed a Nurses' Registration Act, they would be only too pleased to hand over their work to the State.

They hoped to set up the machinery which would eventually lead to State Registration. The time was not yet opportune to go to Parliament for this reform.

Mr. Holland asked for the names of the Matrons who were supporting the scheme. Beyond those of Miss Swift, Matron of Guy's, and Miss C. J. Wood, he could obtain none. They would, Mr. Bonsor said, be announced when the signatories had obtained their certificate from the Board of Trade.

Mr. Holland appealed to the Chair to know if the opposition were not entitled, as a matter of right, to know the names of the Matrons who were supporters of the scheme. Was it not of importance that they should be made public before, and not after, the Board had given its decision?

The whole united nursing world, as well as the medical profession, were against the scheme. No one was for it.

The Chairman replied that Mr. Holland could ask Mr. Bonsor for information, but he had no means of compelling him to reply. Mr. Bonsor remained obdurate, and the names were not disclosed.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked all present for coming there. He assured them that their time had not been wasted. A shorthand note of the proceedings had been taken, and would be very carefully read by Lord Salisbury, President of the Board of Trade.

THE DECISION.

In a letter from the Board of Trade, dated June 7th, 1905, the objectors were informed that the promoters of the proposal had requested that the consideration of their application might be deferred until the Bills before Parliament for the Registration of Nurses had been disposed of, and that the consideration of the application would accordingly stand over.

That reason still holds good.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



The Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Friday, January 21st, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, President, in the chair.

There was a large attendance of members, so much so that the capacity of the room was strained to its utmost extent.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Applications from the following ladies were considered and accepted:—

Miss Mary Carruthers, Matron, Southern War Hospital, Dartford, Kent.

Miss Mary Isabel Stones, Matron, General Hospital, Hertford.

Miss Emily Julia Hurlston, Matron, Hanover Park V.A.D. Hospital.

Miss Fanny Parker Spann, Matron, Township Infirmary, Beckett Street, Leeds.

Miss Jessie F. Mackenzie, R.N., Matron, Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria, B.C., Canada.

Miss Sophia Janet Wood, Superintendent, Somerset County Nursing Association, and Inspector of Midwives.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Spencer, presented a very satisfactory financial statement, showing a balance in hand of £16 11s. 9d.

The Hon. Secretary, Miss A. E. Hulme, then presented her report of the year's work, and also Miss Mollett's report as Delegate to the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women, when a Resolution in support of State Registration of Trained Nurses was carried by hundreds of delegates, only three or four voting against it.

The re-election of the Hon. Treasurer and Secretary was then formally proposed and carried by acclamation.

The President then said that the officers of the Council would be glad to have the views of the members on the Circular Letter issued by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman of the Joint War Committee.

Miss E. M. Musson, one of the delegates of the Council on the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, made a concise report on the proceedings at its meeting on January 15th. Mrs. Fenwick, Miss Barton and others also spoke.

A MEETING OF NURSES.

It was agreed to recommend that a Meeting of Members of the National Council of Nurses

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