

## THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Thursday, July 27th, at 4 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair.

Before the business of the afternoon began the following Resolution was moved by the President from the chair, and passed in silence, the members standing:—

### RESOLUTION.

"The Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses desires to record its profound sorrow at the irreparable loss the Society has sustained by the death on active service in Mesopotamia of its distinguished Vice-President, Colonel Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., LL.D.

"Notwithstanding the many claims upon him as one of the most brilliant members of the medical profession, he accepted office on the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, giving most valuable advice in the drafting of its Nurses' Registration Bill. He supported the movement on public platforms, as well as with his pen and by personal service.

"The Committee offers its deepest sympathy to Lady Horsley and her family in their bereavement, and begs to assure them that this Society of Nurses which Sir Victor Horsley honoured with his friendship will always cherish and revere his memory as that of a generous and single-minded patriot."

Mrs. Fenwick, in moving the resolution, said that the loss to the Society was irreparable. Sir Victor Horsley really understood the question of State Registration of Trained Nurses, and the movement had had his invaluable and sympathetic support.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Action was taken on a letter from Miss Florence Underwood, Secretary of the Women's Freedom League, inviting support to a resolution for the enfranchisement of women, to be placed on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland. The resolution was unanimously supported.

The President then made a Report on State Registration (a) *re* Nurses Registration Bill, and (b) *re* action of the Public Health Committee of the National Union of Women Workers, on which she represented the Society.

In relation to the Nurses Registration Bill, Mrs. Fenwick explained what had been done since the annual meeting of the Society on June 8th, when she presented a report up to date.

The Central Committee had secured in the Registration Bill drafted by the College of Nursing, Ltd., provision for the formation of Supplementary Registers of Male Nurses and

Mental Nurses in addition to the General Register of Women Nurses, the nurses on the Supplementary Registers in each case electing their own representative on the General Nursing Council, they had also secured the right of appeal to the High Courts for nurses removed from the Register if aggrieved by the action of the Council.

The Bill was far from perfect, but if the College of Nursing acceded to the amendments asked for by the Central Committee for the Registration of Nurses at its meeting on July 13th, which Mrs. Fenwick detailed, it would, she said, incorporate many of the underlying principles which State Registrationists had been urging for so many years.

It was imperative that the composition of the General Nursing Council should be defined in the Bill, as the nurses were entitled to know what authorities were to be given power to nominate representatives on their Governing Body, as provided in the Medical and Midwives Acts.

The Nurse delegates on the Central Committee felt most strongly on this point, as they realised its vital importance, and if this and other safeguards of the nurses' interests were not agreed to by the College, it was not improbable that, in quite a friendly spirit, the Central Council would be compelled to adopt an independent line. There was a growing feeling amongst registrationists that under the College Constitution the rank and file of the profession would be entirely submerged. The huge Consultative Board of hundreds of lay persons, evidently to be largely composed of those employing nurses in hospitals and infirmaries, was causing very real apprehension amongst certificated nurses, who realised in it a dangerous menace all over the country, to their professional and personal liberty.

### THE PUBLIC HEALTH SECTIONAL COMMITTEE N.U.W.W.

The President reminded the meeting that she represented the Society on both the Legislation and Public Health Sectional Committees of the National Union of Women Workers. Hitherto, as was in order, Nursing Legislation had always been considered as it should be, by the former body. In April, however, Miss Joseph, the Hon. Secretary of the latter committee, had brought her scheme for the State Registration of Nurses before the Public Health Committee. The scheme urged the registration of Cottage, Village, and Tuberculosis Nurses, and other partially trained women—thus cutting at the root of an efficient professional standard of nursing, by means of the one portal examination—as provided under the Midwives Acts for certified Midwives. The Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Dr. Jane Walker, had been nominated on to the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd.; and at an Emergency Meeting of the Public Health Committee a deputation was nominated which did not include one representative of the trained nurses' organizations, to wait on Mr. Stanley, to urge the registration of Cottage Nurses and others, and to ask for repre-

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