

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The following is the official report of the discussion on State Registration of Trained Nurses at the Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association, Mr. E. B. Turner, F.R.C.S., Chairman of Representative Meetings, being in the chair :—

The Chairman of the Medico-Political Committee said that the Council had recommended the Representative Body to take into consideration the proposals with reference to the College of Nursing.

Mr. E. J. Domville (Exeter) said that the Bill as now drafted was practically in accordance with the Bill approved by the British Medical Association in 1913. The promoters had agreed to adhere to the principle that the British Medical Association should nominate representatives on the Nursing Council, and provision would be made for that in the Bill, but the other constituencies appointing the remainder of the one-third of the Council were not yet definitely agreed upon. In all other respects there was every prospect of an agreed Bill being put before Parliament, in which the principles approved by the British Medical Association in 1913 would be substantially maintained.

In reply to Dr. Robertson (Glasgow), Mr. Garstang said that the College of Nursing had undoubtedly been started in a manner the Association did not quite approve, but it had now got rid of a good many of its obnoxious features.

Dr. T. Jenner Verrall outlined the nature of the negotiations which had so far been carried out between the Association and the College of Nursing. The great principle on which the College of Nursing and the Association were agreed was that there should be registration of nurses on lines that the nurses themselves could accept and approve. The Association was working loyally with the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, of which it was a member.

At the suggestion of the Chairman, the motion was amended and agreed to in the following form :—

“ That the Representative Body instruct the Council to take into consideration the possibility of establishing by means of the proposed Bill now under consideration by the College of Nursing and the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses the general principles desired by the Association in respect of the State registration of nurses, and whether the Association would be justified in supporting the Bill.”

A NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

We print below the fourth draft of the Bill promoted by the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and approved by it on July 27th. It is satisfactory to note that several of the principles advocated by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses have been incorporated since the Bill was first drafted. It is, however, not an agreed Bill. It will be seen that the Constitution of the Council under Clause 5 is not defined, and as the Central Committee will not meet again before September, further negotiations on this point cannot take place before then.

The nurses to be registered have a right to have the authorities nominating the persons to govern them defined in their Bill, as is provided both in the Medical and the Midwives' Acts.

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

SHORT TITLE.

1. This Act may for all purposes be cited as the Nurses' Registration Act, 1916.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

2.—(1) The name of the College of Nursing, Limited, shall be changed to “ the College of Nursing,” and it shall be entitled to bear that title without the addition of the word “ Limited.”

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

(2) The College of Nursing shall for the purposes of this Act act by the Council thereof (which shall be entitled “ The General Nursing Council ” and is hereinafter called “ the Council ”) as regulated by this Act and by Rules made thereunder.

(3) Every nurse registered under this Act shall be entitled to a vote at elections of the Council, and, if registered on the General Register, without further fee to become a member of the College of Nursing.

REGISTER OF NURSES.

3. It shall be the duty of the College of Nursing to form and to keep a General Register of Nurses, a Supplementary Register of Male Nurses, and a Supplementary Register of Mental Nurses, and each such Register is hereinafter in this Act included in the term “ the Register.” The Register already formed by the College of Nursing, Limited, shall be the first Register under this Act.

RULES.

4.—(1) Rules shall be made under this Act—

(i) regulating the constitution and proceedings and the mode of election and of retirement of the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)